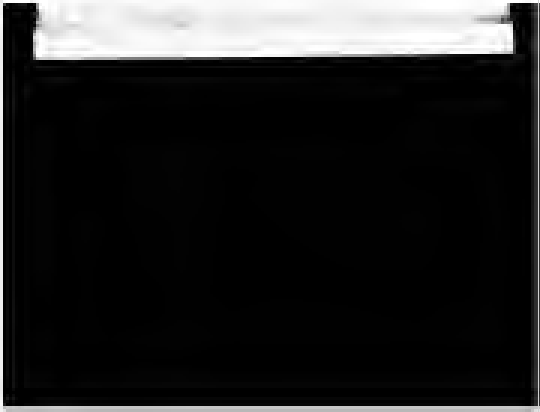
HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S

Presbyterian Church

MEDICINE HAT

1883
TO
1973



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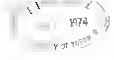

HISTORY

of

St. John's Presbyterian Church

Medicine Hat Alberta

1883 1973

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THE STORY OF GOD ENDURETH

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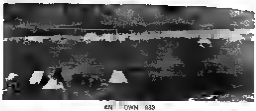
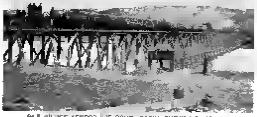
PREFACE

Many people too numerous to mention are responsible for the production of this history of St. John's. On behalf of the Session and Congregation I wish to express them most sincere gratitude. In particular however, I would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Margaret Stephen, without whose initiative and organizational ability and hard work this book would not have seen the light of day.

RONALD G. SMITH



KAI TOWN 1933



PALE AN IDGE ACROSS THE SOUTH TASOVA CHEKIANG PROVCE 1935

BRIDGE OF MEDICINE WA 1934-35
Presbyterian Church at Sui Kiu

1883 - 1973
History of St. John's Church

INTRODUCTION

This small book has been compiled to relate, as well as possible, the history of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat Alberta. The record is far from complete, due to no fault the minute books and documents cover so many years of church history are missing entirely but the History Committee is most fortunate in the possession of the very first minute books of the Session Board of Managers, and the Sunday School Since everyone's interest revolves around the spiritual backbone of the Congregation these records are invaluable in building up a picture of those first years in our community The reason for the establishment of this History now in the forthcoming celebration of the 50th Jubilee early in 1st. John's, which will be held on Sunday June 3 1973 the exact anniversary date of the first gathering in Presbyterian form in the little hamlet of Medicine Hat. At long time of writing we have only a few achieved the status of a city which has become an oasis of beauty homes in the gardens in the hills a long picturesque valley in order to appreciate the hardships and courage of those pioneers who organized our Church we must look back to the early condition of this small settlement on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River

Indians had camped for years on the and we now know as the Flats. Early in 1883, the C.P.R. took a large crew of men to Medicine Hat to build a temporary bridge across the river as it construction camp was and out on there The need for provisions brought all sorts of merchants, but as the towns in that not yet been surveyed these people were of good to pitch their tents where they could easily move them when the streets were laid out. For some time all business was done in tents, then stores and houses were erected it is matters of were on point in This town has no sidewalks street lights or running water in those days water carts being used to deliver water at 25c a barrel.

In the spring of 1883 Medicine Hat was only a camp of tents and shacks, near the site of the railway bridge which was being construction as that time The C.P.R. trains had been laid as far as Dunmore, and travelling the riverboat down the river as far as the Saskatchewan River was rapidly being completed. Until the was in place the only method of trave was by the steamboat or on foot.

THE BEGINNING OF A CONGREGATION

Rev. Angus Robertson

On F day June 1 883, a travelle om he Eas arrived n the little tent town of Medicine Hat in the person of Rev. Angus Robertson who was a graduate of Knox College Toronto and who had been sent West by he Presbyterian Church in May 1883 to do Home Mission work in the Calgary field. He was ordained in Winnipeg on May 23 883, and continued n a ng way West with h s brother ministers serving n Medicine Hat on June 1. The two men spent Sunday s ying around the hamlet becoming acquainted with the people and they found enough Presbyte ians to organize a church service for he next day. The local ne of a meeting n ace was the main problem until Mr. G. F. Toppe offered the use of his tent store. So everyone was notified and invitations were extended to a l of the residents to attend P aring where p ople of boys, n rows to p ovide seating a- fragments and so on d the clutter of groceries hardware c thing and supp es of all k nds. Mr. Robertson conducted he f rst service n Medicine Hat under the auspices of he Presbyter an Church n Canada. This meeting accomplished two purposes — it made the residents aware of the Presbyterian church affiliations and it encouraged them to hold services from that time on whenever a ministe was available. During the summer of 83, Rev. G. M. Milligan D.D. of Toronto, conducted a service and Mr. Tupper acted a gues s ton to the purpose. Two other Ministers, Rev. R. Wright and Rev. R. Hamilton each conducted services in the C.P.R. depot, n the fall of. C. M. Copeland Secretary of the YM.C.A. in Winnipeg, he d services n he R inwick Hotel for three weeks. These meetings helped the Presbyterian cause to become established with one n ssion. The Methodists had erected a building n 1883, and the members were astonished the prompt ss of raising the building n fact it was fin shed. Rev. Mr. Robertson reported to Toronto and Winnipeg headquarters the fact that he Presbyterians held their firs service n Medicine Hat on June 3, 1883.

BUILDING A CHURCH

By Agenda 664, the Presbyter on members felt that they had a sufficient number to go ahead with a church for themselves, and on April 23 18th a public meeting of Presbyterians was held in the Salem of Mr. George McCuaig at 8:30 p.m. to take his matter upon that has gradually come to a plane of worship. A temporary Mr. Elwyn Anderson, B.A. had served in the village, and no doubt in the presence it encouraged the members to take positive action at that time. Mr. Thomas Towler was called to the chair with Mr. Sam Archibald acting as Secretary of the meeting. A canvas was soon reported, composed of Messrs. Thebeau, McCuaig, Harry Tupper and Archibald, to take up subscriptions for the erection of a building. The financial aspect of the undertaking must have received great faith and courage on the part of these people who were a struggle to establish but two houses and built homes, so that they could work for the Master. Sometime ago official Church records in Toronto show that listed they had twelve Presbyterian members this figure of course, did not include children.

Mr Anderson was of great assistance in getting the plans, again using the Old Church in the East had established a Church and Manse Building Fund, with headquarters in Winnipeg to loan to new congregations up to 10% of the cost of new churches. Accordingly the men decided on a three thousand dollar church to be determined as soon as possible. The meeting also discussed the cost of maintaining the Congregation for the summer and making that $13.00 per week won't cover the expenses. They agreed to use the envelope system of giving, and instructed Mr. Bassett, the Secretary in order to have envelopes, 2 dozen hymn books, 1 dozen of Hymns of Hymnals and a few chairs. The meeting then adjourned to meet one week later. Thus the Mr Wm. Cousins acted as Chairman and the first Business was the election of a Board of Managers, these being

Mr J. Kenyon	Mr. Roy Porter
" Geo. McCuaig	Mr. G. P. Tupper
" Wm. Cousins	Mr. John Archibald
Mr Thomas Towler	

In the light of historical records, one realizes that the Congregation of 1964 church wisely and was since all of these men served their Church with unwavering devotion. Several of them lived in Meaford itself for the big areas of real lives, giving unstinting of their talents and material, and it to be to us the Congregation which they helped to organize.

The meeting asked to be the Building Committee select the site for the church, and they were the Church and Manse Building Fund for 66% of the cost. After the meeting adjourned, the Board of Man-

again immediately held their first Board meeting at which time Mr. Cousins offered a site on River Street for services until the church was built. The Secretary Mr. Anderson offered to go around and get subscriptions for the running expenses.

At the next month's meeting Mr. Tweed was heard these steadily during all 1900 p.m., in the Lansdowne Hotel on which the interior. The exact plans of the church including views of auditorium and all. It was decided to have plain rectangular windows with a steep roof on the roof. However some of the Managers were strongly in favor of Gothic windows and doors which they knew would be more suggestive. However when Mr. Tweed and Mr. McCaslin explained that the site would not warrant such an outlay this Mr. Tweed would get the windows up from Winnipeg by express free of cost it was decided to obtain the Gothic windows and doors but to call them tenders by different companies with the interior. The tender of Messrs. McRae and Mack to erect the church for $725.00 was accepted and Mr. Finlay's price for the lumber was also agreed upon. And so the first church was built with Gothic windows and doors but covered with a plain roof — and a debt which was not cleared off for fifteen years. A start was successfully obtained from fifty people or $250.00. At the time the Church was under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Manitoba. The site chosen as the child's was the exact location of the present church property but the fact that the Presbyterians did not hold title to the land did no harm to any body. The plans like that were quite reasonable were. Despite a until the needs could be surveyed and are stated out.

First church, next as a school

On July 2, 1884 a society was formed at the Boadstone Methodist New Wesleyan Church. This Episcopal Denomination was extended an invitation a meet at the church free of charge, a day time they might need it except on Sunday evenings. A vote of thanks was sent to the Methodist Church for the use of the Building and what care was under consideration.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Andrew Jones must have been busy starting up the Children of the Congregation because he held an organizational meeting of the Sunday School on June 28, 1884 even before the roof was lifted. The 60 chairs arrived to use and an organ was rented in the season so with hymn books, organ and chairs Mr. Anderson was all a to conduct a service in some semblance of it all by and by.

The first regular Sunday School was held on July 6, with 16 pupils in attendance and a collection of $8.

The Presbyterian Church has always placed great emphasis a education and has a somewhat of a study of the way in which the Sunday School open the mission of each one money. Before they were to open him for the income, they purchased 20 books to start a library the next year and got more volumes. The reason book contains a complete classes of the Brooks Bible and was returned by the pupils by closing that at least 19 books were sold as a to the Church to read. When one realizes that only settlers could not afford to shop why had the bare necessities to the living settlement, one can appreciate the importance of their little Sunday School library as these may have been the only books available of the children.

The emphasis on education is together with the spirit of generosity as an asset in western pioneers was displayed with the Boa II of Managers ordered into an agreement with the School Board, giving the use of the church for public school for all of the pupils in the village. The annual income sources of temperance are considered on due to the fact the members of the Presbyterian Congregation were sometimes acting as Trustees as well. Finance of a scheme and assess of the buildings by as many as 75 pupils counted has a settlement about one. The first education the school was actual by Henry Bell in the church is noted and a he in the Ontario. 1884 when the School Board offered to pay rent-paid of the expenses of a Building in the back of the church with wood self vests. Dan Bedard reported that we had no tubes to buy. It was a home heat to heat inside however for the no II when he came, and Mr. Isam Poole was paid $2.00 to heat up the church on building is on earth. We must remember the this building was set up a that with the share and should be expected on the pupils. So on Nov. 7 the Managers arranged to have the interior of the church redone with good dry lumber necessating the School Board to address a cases for their keys with the was he no Boole

THE PIONEER WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Mrs. Wm. Cousins

Mrs. [illegible]

We have very little knowledge of the women who made up the Congregation at the time you refer to, but we have a list compiled for them as they struggled in the most primitive circumstances to establish comfortable homes for their husbands and children during the Riel Rebellion in 1885. All of the men folk lived in fear of Indian raids and I suppose that a Call for ammunition was kept free up a readiness to evacuate the women and children in case of both Medicine Hat and Calgary. A battalion of 90 men from the 56th was stationed here in Leduc, for the protection of the district, but the residents of the town as they walked about on horseback did not add to anyone's peace of mind or sense of security.

We can establish the names of some of the ladies who were here on 23 - 24 as they must have been the members of Sunday School pupils, and if we proudly salute these pioneer women of St. John's

Mrs. Wm. Cousins	Mrs. Tom Tweed	Mrs. Affec	Mrs. Wolfrey
Mrs. Davis	Mrs. Brooks	Mrs. McKay	Mrs. Mosquer
Mrs. McCutcheon	Mrs. McMartian	Mrs. Harper	Mrs. McNab
Mrs. Bailey	Mrs. Hargrave	Mrs. Barnes	Mrs. Sarey

The very first record of these ladies taking an active part in affairs, was on Sept. 9, 1884, when they met at the church at 3 p.m. (after school) to plan as a committee to get up an entertainment. Again on Oct. 10, 1884, a meeting was called to prepare a farewell for Mr. Andersen, the Missionary who was leaving to take up a college in Winnipeg. He had the gift the Church a great deal during the building program and had been with the people from April 23, to October 1884. These activities of the ladies are typical of women's work in the most needy years in St. John's.

DEVELOPMENT UNDER OUR EARLY MINISTERS

The next Pastor to minister to the needs of the Congregation was Rev. Thomas Lee Dodd, M.A. who arrived from Wade on 1st November, 1894, and stayed until he left for England August. He was the Minister who introduced the first Communion Services for Presbyterian use in Medicine Hat. The date of the first being Jan. 1st, 1895. The Communion record book gives the names of 11 members with particulars of the 3 persons as the date

Mrs. McPherson	Mrs. Helma Teesee
M. Thos. Teesee	Mr. Alexes Romsay
Mr. Geo. McClung	Mrs. J. Ferguson
Mr. James Kingsbra	

Mr. McClung who was an ordained Elder formerly from Winnipeg assisted Mr. Knowlson. The second Communion service was held on July 1899, when 14 members participated, new names being —

W. T. Finlay	Mrs. J. Horner
Mrs. Finlay	Mrs. Lawson
Mrs. J. Fisher	Miss Sarah Horner
Mr. James Horner	

During the period the financial condition of the new Congregation was one of continual worry over money matters. The Board had since the 1st inch of $250.00 from the Church & Manse Building Fund in 1894 but it was hard to pay their other debts amounting to $230.00. Mr. Finlay's bill for the lamps in the church, in November was an added worry. In 1896 at the Board meeting on Feb. 18, 1895, the members agreed that they should give the amount equally between themselves to let the bill be met. Mr. Finlay before taking this drastic action however, they decided at the next meeting to get up an entertainment to raise pay off the debt the committee to be Messrs. McCuig, Teesee, Finlay Courts and Alan Dodd. He did not like the Concert to be like the 4th. They must have a good to a packed house because they later reported taking in the sum of $40.25. They also got $10.00 for rent of the church for Court purposes also a special collection of $7.20. This was all applied on the debt, and then several men each donated $5.00 to wipe out the amount owing to Mr. Finlay for the lamps.

Angus of the building by the school was a constant worry and it became so that in April 1895 the Board sent a note to the School Trustees that unless they engage a responsible person to boil the church a no bell rang on Saturday for Sabbath services, the Board will refuse them the use of the building."

Rev. M. Davidson planned to leave Medicine Hat on Aug. 22 1905, to visit Scotland, and the Board owed him $400 in a years or so pay. Since the finances of the Church were at a low ebb, the Managers were obliged to go out and collect money to pay him.

ARRIVAL OF REV. JAMES HERALD

After Mr. Davidson left, the Congregation wrote to Winnipeg requesting the office there to send a good man to them. The Church at Minnedosa was also without a Minister and the name of Rev. James Herald, B.A., B.D. was suggested to both Congregations. Mr. Gordon in Winnipeg read the preceding note in favor of Medicine Hat. So on November 1905 the Rev. Mr. Herald came to reside in the Congregation. He was the first pastor who had a family so it seemed likely became necessary for the Congregation to provide a Manse.

The Rev. James Herald

The Gait Coal Company erected a building adjacent to the railroad bridge, which had been used for an office so the Board offered it to them for $350 to buy it to make it into a manse. It was an urgent need to have a house for the Herald family and it seem a good move at the time. A letter was sent by telegram on Nov. 30, that he would come, the meeting for $400.00 had not said that he did not have to pay rent on the house, and would not be required to do same. The Board agreed to purchase the building, send Mr. Gait $ 50.00 in cash and the Managers note for 30 days for the balance, and a loan at $400.00 owed by the Church & Manse Building Fund. This was typical of the financial picture for several years, except that the debts got bigger and bigger.

The Manse stood near the railway bridge for the next 4 years. When it was eventually moved, was on the church lot diagonally across from the present Manse. It was a very poor structure. However it was a home, and it became home to the Herald family during the five years that they occupied it. The Sunday School record has a notation in ink on Dec. 20, 1908, saying "Rev. Mr. Herald's family is moved today, thus ends the sad lament in the Congregation over this happy event.

Now that a permanent Minister had come to reside in the village, the church members must have felt a new sense of security, and the Board of Managers was able to arrange with the Board of Missions in Toronto for assistance in payment of Mr. Halsall's stipend. St. John's was a Mission Charge for the next six years, in 1885 receiving $350 as toward the salary — $650.00. This must have been a great help to the members as their debts grew larger as the years went by. The communicant membership still numbered only 16 in 1886, so the financial problems are quite understandable.

The land on which our church building stood was received as a gift from the North-West Land Company, on Jan. 14 1886 and the Board of Managers accepted a sincere vote of thanks to the Company for this very fine contribution to the work of Presbyterianism in Medicine Hat. Mr. Twiss and Mr. Finlay were instructed to have after the names of the deed, which was to be registered in Regina. It was received on May 5, 1886 and we are the fortunate possessors of this original document. It was made out to The Board of Management, Church & Manse Building Fund, Presbyterian Church, which received the sum of $1.00 "to us paid" for lots numbers 27 28, 29 and 30 in block 5, as laid down and marked on the plan of the town of Medicine Hat in North West Territories of the Dominion of Canada. As a protection to both Church and Manse Building Funds and the local Members all property on which church loans were secured was received in the name of the said Building Fund until the loans were paid off. The trustees, Fund hold titles to our Church, Manse and Cemetery property for a long time, and our [illegible] figure by carry proposals. You deal with the buildings, as a corporation for all concerned.

The Old Manse

The Presbyterian Church has always been noted for its keen appreciation of democratic government. Not with standing the fact that the Assembly claims to control their Presbytery then the local Congregation. The Church officers in Eastern Canada must have been hard-pressed to keep up with the expansion in the West during the 80s and 90s. This is evident in the official church records, which show that Knox Church has belonged to four different Presbyteries from 1881 - 1888. We were first included in the Presbytery of Manitoba which was described by one Church historian as "the biggest Presbytery in the world" extending from the Manitoba boundary to the Rocky Mountains, and North to the Arctic Ocean. We were then included in

Presbytery of Brandon — March 31 - 1885
Presbytery of Regina — March 31 - 1885
Presbytery of Calgary — Dec. 31 1887

There were only three Presbyterian churches in the 26th month of what is now known as Alberta. In 1887 there were, one in Edmonton with 42 Members, Knox in Calgary with 80 Members and Medicine Hat with 46.

The Missions of New Ideas Ministry in the village entered into a become apps set when we learn of the growth and activities of the Congregation. The Sod & wee greatly disturbed however when they met on July 5, 1886 a committee to report relating them that the Home Mission Board was now reducing the grant from $600.00 to $200.00. The Sod & Tar Roof Home Missionary should realize by their experiment (what if expected could not known) Mr. Kyle state that "The following resolution was adopted. A most blank space, a new print of a page in length in the minute book gives us no clue as to the resolution, and at the next meeting when the minutes were read they were not adopted because the resolution was lacking. The friend a response be for it still still incidents as we see there's case (Toronto were to show that we have paid only $200.00 per year an perhaps the resolution was never sent).

During the time that the Church had been without a Minister or children had been baptized but shortly after Mr. Kyle left a Pastor, he began to perform these duties and 1st baptismal records were set up. The 1st record of to solemnize the baptisms performed a 1886:—

Feb. 5, 1886 — John Frederick Finley son of Wm. and Catherine Finley
July 5, 1886 — Isabelle MacDermid Cowans daughter of Wm. and Jessie Cowans
Sept. 2, 1886 — James Wyatt's Sings, son of Peter and Lil late Kaye
Sept. 2, 1886 — Ethel Eleanor Hunter, son of James and Margaret Hunter
Nov. 7, 1886 — Mary Jane Mc Cu chaen daughter of John and Angelica McCutcheon
Nov. 29, 1886 — Catherine Mollett, daughter of Alexander and Rachel Mollett.

First recorded Marriage — May 29 - 1886

Richard Neering — age 29 years
Ann e Philadelph — age 23 years
Witnesses John & Alfreda Rae

THE FIRST ORDINATION OF ELDERS

It is comparatively rare for a congregation that is accustomed to years crowned by a diamond and broad of Managers. It is possible, to understand how both the Minister and Congregation continued without a Session for over two years. However, we can see that it is not unnatural the congregation continue or members themselves had become sufficiently acquainted with each other to be able to select men of the spiritual qualities necessary for the heavy responsibilities of forming the first Session of a new church. But by the time Mr Harold had lived in the village for a few months he felt that the time was ripe for electing Elders.

It will be noted that although the church group was organized in April 1884, and a Sunday School started that year together in June Jan until August 22, 1886, that the members met to elect Elders. Rev. James Harold conducting the meeting. All members of the Presbyterian Church being consulted with, the following gentlemen were elected as Elders.

Mr. Thomas Tweed	Mr Wm. Thomas Finlay
Mr. William Caseley	Mr. James Hargrave
Mr. George McCaig	

Ordination took place after the morning service on Sept 12, 1886, and Mr. George McCaig, who had been ordained as an Elder in Winnipeg, was duly inducted in the same office in Middleton Hall. Mr. McCaig was an ardent worker both in the Church and the Sunday School but after a few years he moved to the Coast. (Recent efforts to trace him or his later years have been fruitless). The other four original Elders remained in office for many years, proving true to the trust and responsibilities laid upon them by a new Congregation.

At the first meeting of the Session, Mr. William Caseley was elected as Clerk of Session, which position he held almost continuously for 32 years. The Session agreed to meet weekly a year meeting on Wednesday nights.

It was an historic occasion when the first Communion service was dispensed by our own Session, was held in the Presbyterian Church on October 13, 1886 one month after the ordination of Elders. We feel that it a worthy of note to record the names of those 29 people who took vows of loken of adherence, as this was the sole use of an Congregation in these early years.

Mr. James Horne	Mrs. Fisher	Mrs. Lapp
Miss Sarah Horner	Mr. Rev. McCully	Mrs. Horner
Mr. James Hargrave	Mr. R. Sage	Mrs. Smith
Mr. Wm Caseley	Mrs. Sage	Mrs. Simon
Mr. James Ramsay	Mrs. Harold	Mr. [illegible]
Mrs. Ramsay	Mr. Wendt	Mrs. [illegible]
Mr. Thos. Tweed	Mr. W. T. Finlay	Mrs. McPhail
Mrs. Tweed	Mrs. Finlay	Mrs. Hargrave

FIRST ELDERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
ORDINATION SERVICE SEPTEMBER 12, 1886

M[illegible] W[illegible] Dunn

Mr. [illegible] H[illegible]ave

M[illegible] [illegible] Fitz

M[illegible] Thomas Tweed

M[illegible] George McClurg

By Professor of [illegible]

Mrs. Gaultne — Mrs. Spence
Mrs. Ferguson — Mrs. M. E.
B. Robinson — McCutcheon

THE BEGINNING OF HILLSIDE CEMETERY

We realize that death and sorrow often touched the [illegible] hearts, and of all the Presbyterian Congrega on mourned with M. and Mrs. James Ha grave when his little son Cecil died in November 1880. He was two years, one months.

Three were at each two memberies in the town at that time one of them ex ending up Sixth Avenue from the present A.M.A. building to Aberdeen and the last streets. Everyone realized that this location was too close to town, until that a new site would have to be chosen by Board s Managers was aware that Mr. Hargrave wanted h s son's body interred in a permanent spot and not moved at a later time so the membe s met hurr y on Sunday evening to discuss a new but permanent loca on for a cemetery. A report of the meet ng was printed in the newspaper and we quot the decisions made be ng somewhat confusing. However [illegible] Cecil Hargrave was buried on Tuesday afte noon, at a spot in the centre of the present Hillside Cemetery. It was beautiful y kept by t l trees, shrubs, and green sward today. Su en that November day, it was a bleak, lonely place on the crest o s ris about two m es south-west of Medicine Hat and it is the trail that led to Fort Macleod.

In Memory of
CECIL E. SHEPPARD
son of
JAMES and ALEXANDRINA
HARGRAVE
Died Nov. 7 1880
Aged 2 Years and 2 Months
He Suffered in the Kingdom Of Heaven

PROGRESS TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1899

As the winter of 1896-97 began the Board of Managers began concentrated difficulties with the School Board. The packing of the court and stove by the public school of the church by day to such a deplorable state that on November 11 1896 no Church Board could a special meeting at which they passed a motion of relief the School Trustees to find another by day. Motion carried unanimously. Apparently he matter was smoothed over with the offer by the School Board to pay $15.00 per month rent, retroactive to October 1896. That was accepted and school continued to be held in our church.

The Session held regular meetings, and on the 4th of the Elders had been elected: M. Thomas Tweed was appointed as Representative Elder - he being the only one held that office. In May 1898 our Church was part of the Calgary Presbytery and at its annual were sent from Mr. Herdman, Clerk of Presbytery, he M. Herald and M. Tweed were appointed as Commissioners to the General Assembly at Halifax in June 1898. This was a great honor to be awarded to our Session. Also M. Tweed was appointed to represent this Presbytery at he Synod meeting in Brandon, in May. We have no record of whether or not they attended these meetings in Brandon the Session revised the Communion Roll and it was found that 8 members had moved away and there were 46 names on at the end of 1898.

The Medicine Hat School District had become sufficiently organized to start erect action of a school building and Temple Street School was completed by the end of 1898. Our Church had had a few more problems with them on he rise and a means being found at $180.00 a February 1899. When the school vacated in January 1899 we had to settle by a donation the financial obligation for the times in the church and the building of the new home which had been formerly owned. Apparently the school ground seats a few new premises in Toronto Street School, because we voted to rent others to them for $2.00 per week for as long as needed. This closed the record of a difficult but important time as remembered by the writer, commonly by the Presbyterian Congregation.

St. John's members have always been most energetic and enterprised both by the faithful thanking of special ones of the Budget as well as by the 70-year history of the activities of the Well and the Guild. Our Church was a Mission Church from 1885 to 1899 race ding for 14 years was elation for this reason's be very stirring and

The members realized that they were very dependent on the Home Mission Board to keep the Congregation going so in spite of the fact that they always had debts to face they tried to support the out reach of the Church as best they could. As the Western Canada was being settled very hastily and new Congregations were being formed across the Prairies. The travelled cardidate for the training of ministers etc. missionaries, supervision of the work in the field and many other important duties so all of these aspects were omitted. Schemes of the Church. That were Schemes strikes a saying now on the ears of members 37 years later as it has come to represent committees or questionnaire but in 1898 it held the original meaning of "plans". We are proud to learn that St. John a members contributed after this they could to the support of this work. On October 5 1897 the Session agreed that they should help in this matter and in March 1898, they decided that Mr. Hewitt should explain that the [illegible] about his steps asking for contributions and that these should be collected on Communion Sundays, it is recorded that in the year 1898, annual collections were taken as as follows:

General Assembly	$ 2.00	Home Mission	$ 8.10
Manitoba College	$ 7.10	Prov. Hosp. Fund	$ 1.10
Augmentation Fund	$10.00	Synod	$ 9.00
		Total Sent	$ 37.30

For many years now the term "Building" has applied to the various aspects of General Assembly work.

In 1899, the Medicine Hat Hospital was erected and in August was opened, the dedication service being performed by our minister Rev Mr Hewitt. Members of the Hospital Board included several members of our Church Messrs McC[illegible], Cully, Cowper, Turner and Rev Mr Hewitt. This hospital was the only one west of Winnipeg for some years and rendered great service to the people of the West. A Plaque in 1980, Rev Angus Robertson the missionary who had conducted the first Presbyterian service in Medicine Hat on June 3 1888 was brought to our Hospital very ill with fever He had served the Redeemer for years as a Missionary in some camps in British Columbia, White at Donald, B.C. he took ill and was rushed to Medicine Hat where he died in August 1899.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FRAME CHURCH BUILDING

After the School vacated the church premises, at the end of 1896, the Presbyterians must have heaved a sigh of relief and turned eagerly to the work of making the premises look more than a improvements to the interior of the building which had been such hard usage for five years. The Managers must have soon had news, because at the [illegible] meeting on Jan. 20, 1898, they instructed Mr Sage to rent the church to the School for $2.00 per week for as long as needed. At a

ember ending on Jan 31 they appointed a Committee of Messrs. McQuaig Tweed and Hein if with powers to engage a contractor to move the church building further over on his lot and to hire a carpenter and purchase the necessary work. No further minutes were recorded for over a year but the Session minutes of November 2 1885 state that his Session had agreed that after the church was re-opened, they meet in the church.

Proof that an additional was built at the back of the church is shown in a small picture of the church and the manse sets by side, in which can be seen the addition with a "with c" window showing. Also a vestibule was built on the front and there is a picture of the interior of the church which shows an archway with the depth of the addition giving a space for the choir and the pulpit

In the fall of 1900, a cellar was dug under the church and a furnace was installed so the Congregation must have enjoyed greater comfort from that time on, but it was not until 1907 that storm windows were purchased at a cost of $40.00. The late Mrs. A. C Hawthorne used to tell an amusing story about those windows. Shortly after her marriage Mr. Hawthorne was one Sunday evening in the middle of July they and he was wearing a coonskin cap with the raccoon's head. He commented that she was perhaps astonished to see his headgear but explained that he had received an ultimatum of the Managers that he was going to wear that cap until they removed the storm windows from the church for the summer!

Frame Church and Manse.

Bend of River Church

Rev. James Herald

Mrs. Jessie Herald

Jessie Herald
married John Ewart

TRIBUTE TO REV MR. HERALD

The entire Congregation was saddened by the death of their Minister Rev M. He a d from this life on March 4, 1890. His first home to Mel c ne Hal n November of 1885 with his wife and daughter Jessie. During his pastorate of almost five years, he had built St John's from a weak group of peop e into a strong Congregation. The first Session was a ected after he came, and the Elders were ordained and inducted n Robe rt so by him. Others records tell us that he was just about to be installed into the pasto a charge of Mentic ne Hal when he was removed by death.

The members and adherents erected a marble tablet, placing it in the Sanctuary in recognition of the faithful services of their beloved Pastor as an affectionate tribute to his memory.

"ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THIS CHURCH
TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REV. JAMES HERALD
THEIR BELOVED PASTOR
WHO DIED MARCH 4 1890 AGED 66 YEARS
REVERED AND RESPECTED BY ALL
BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD"

As a further tribute to the esteem in which the Herald family was held the Session at their meeting on May 12, 1890 passed a motion that the front pews on the right side of the church, be reserved for the Herald family. Jessie, the daughter of Rev and Mrs. Herald, married Mr John Ewart a man who was a great church worker a member of the Board of Managers, and an influential business man in the community. In 1901 he took his family to California in search of a better climate for himself, but he died there of tuberculosis a short time later. Mrs Ewart returned to Medicine Hat where she gave unsparingly of her many talents in the work of St. John's. She played the organ, taught Sunday School, acted as President of the Ladies' Aid for many years, and eventually became Treasurer of the Manse, "when she married the Rev James Morrow in 1913. She was one of the truly remarkable pioneers of St. John's, having arrived in Medicine Hat on December, 1883. She lived to the good age of 82 years, always maintaining her pioneer zest. Five of St. John's children had taken her two children here, McLaren and Jacqueline, both of whom are still living here in 1975. McLaren was a retired Major of the Presbyterian Church. Jacqueline married Mr. H. Morgan, and for both she and her husband, over years of their home and musical ability as devoted members of St. John's choir.

REV A J MACLEOD

St. John's was now left without a pastor, no steps had to be taken to call a minister. There was no lack of the session's source of action but two items are gathered from the newspaper "The Times" of Thursday April 17 1890. The first one states: Rev Mr Morrison arrived yesday day on No 1 and he will occupy the pulpit of this Presbyterian Church for the next two Sundays. Then the most important item noted namely. A call to Rev M. MacLeod of Banff is being unanimously signed by the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church here. Rev Angus J MacLeod B.A., came in May 1890 and ministered to the Congregation until March 1891 when he was given his charge to take the position of Principal of the Indian School at Regina during a brief ministry the work in St.

John received a new impetus.

During Mr Herald's time and for part of Mr. MacLeod's time, the coal mines were in operation at Starr (north-west of Redcliff) and services were occasionally held at this point as well as at Dunmore, seven m. so East of here.

Realizing that the Members of 1973 would like to know when and how the name St. John's came to be used the Historical Committee made every effort to obtain this information. The Session minute book records the name on Sept. 10, 1883 in every by a Presbytery report which states, "as St. John's (Med.) one Hon. The title was not used again until Aug. 7 1884. The Board of Management minutes first used the name in recording the annual meeting of January 1884.

Since many of the enquiries received by our queries addressed as letter to the Arch visit of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, who reported that the name St. John's was first used in the Acts and Proceedings of the Synod Assembly for both the statistics of which cover the previous year, viz, we conclude that the name St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat came into use in 1883, but how it was chosen, is not known

A WELL ESTABLISHED CHURCH BY 1896

Rev. Charles Stephen

In the beginning of April 1894, Rev. Charles Stephen, B.A., B.D., came immediately on the departure of Mr. MacLeod for the purpose of filling supply for a short time, but after a period of six weeks, he was called to become the Minister. He was inducted and ordained on the first day of June 1894. This was the first induction that had taken place in connection with any of the Congregations," states Mr. Stephen in his short history.

Our village was growing slowly, as the Congregation became a little stronger as the years went by. At the close of 1895, the membership stood at [illegible], but even so, the finances continued to be a problem. The minutes of June 29, 1896, state that the Managers were [illegible] pay $6.00 for the "Pulpit," which is the first mention of our church furnishings, and again in August, 1897, the Session purchased "cold covers of the record for the Congregation at sermons. The readers today should realize that the pastorate at Tiverton required a good deal of time and endurance on the part of our ministers, who had to have a horse at their disposal, to hitch the rig or cutter up the steep hill on to the points, and to travel the seven miles to the village on private calls. Also, good warm clothes, rubber boots must have been part of the needed equipment in those days, in winter.

Many people are unaware of the fact that St. John's is one of the very few Congregations that have always served Communion wine instead of the Communion patches. No one knew where this custom originated until the discovery was made in the [illegible] Session meeting Aug. 1896, when it was recorded that "it the use of fermented wine would keep one Communion cant away from the service, therefore it was agreed that a supply of unfermented wine (grape juice) be purchased." The custom has been observed for 81 years until recently when the Session of 1971 decided to serve communion wine, but also [illegible] grape juice in the centre of each of the trays, for use by the Congregation.

FORMATION OF THE LADIES' AID

The first mention of a Ladies' Aid was in October 1890, when it was stated that the Ladies' Aid gave $85.26 toward the cost of painting the Manse. Mr. Stephen, who ministered to the Congregation from 1891 to 1895, in his brief history, gave special mention to the great assistance of the Ladies' Aid during the past 3 years, as apparently they were organized in the year 1890. Each year, at the annual church meetings, a grateful tribute was always paid to the ladies for the tremendous help given to the Congregation. Unfortunately the financial cycles assumed great proportions in those early years, as evidenced in these details.

In September 1893, when Mr. Stephen left, debt was over a thousand Church a representative of the Presbytery visited the Congregation to look into its finances. The debt then stood at $600.00, and handling the finances looked like a first-class juggling act. The Bazaar raised a note to one month for $214.00; be a second for $264.00; and so a note for $120.00. The very next month, they borrowed another $120.00 from the second member to pay the first. And so it went.

ST. JOHN'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Although we are most fortunate in having the earliest minute books — with Session and Managers, there is a great deal of valuable information, as the accounts of annual meetings but only the titles of reports given, and none of the contents, which would be so important in the historical Committee years later. However, we do have the story of a fifty pamphlet entitled "Constitution of the Church and its Associations for Work." Since the most complete exactly the first 10 year period of St. John's History and growth, it is invaluable to all of us, to see how much the Church has progressed during that time. The first two pages of the weekly envelope cost 15 members, with others with these amounts, and no more a few of $1.00. Given by only three people) down to 5¢ per week contributed by seven. That other generous ones Thomas, William Nora and Melrose Hargrave, who each of M. and Mrs. James Hargrave also honorable Columbia, daughter of the William Cousins family. The majority of aids gave 10¢ a week. The Treasurer's Report shows the they started the year with a debt of $1,168.73. Total receipts were $ 599.82, for the year ended with a debt of $868.72 including a loan owing to the mission of $256.00. The Sunday School had done well spending about $71.00 on lessons, and replied on my many library. The Ladies Aid work n $343.05 which the used the proceeds of a Me on Social on Aug. 28 of $47.85. The expenditures let the cost of the manse at $5.00, and the relight on same at $7.00 but what a treat that must have been to everyone. The Ladies ended the year with a balance of $6 having given the Mission $345.35.

The number of communicants is listed at 42, there having been a gain of 5, but a loss of 3. 21 members took the Pledge. There has been 1 Baptism. In the list of weekly activities we note that services were being held at Dunmore every Sunday afternoon. Even though they still faced a large debt the members had contributed $86.36 for the Schemes of the Church thus exhibiting their concern for the Mission outreach of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1983

Minister — Rev. Charles Stephen M.A.
Field Editor — Miss T. Finley J.P.
Session Clerk — Mrs. Cousins
Elders — W. Caroline A. Hargrave, W. T. Finley
T. Tweed, M.L.A., J. Young
Managers — W. T. Finley Chairman
A. Hargrave, Sec., H. Stewart, Treas.
T. Tweed, J. F. Fisher P. Robertson
Organist — Miss. Wetherall
Caretaker — Mr. J. Hargrave
Sabbath School — Superintendent — Mr. W. T. Finley
Teachers — Miss Black, Miss Parks, Miss Wetherall
Miss M. Mitchell M. Mc. T. Finley
Bible Class — Teacher — Rev. Thos. Stephen
Ladies' Aid — President — Mrs. J. H. Spence
Vice-President — Mrs. F. Robertson
Treasurer — Miss M. Wetherall
Secretary — Mrs. John Evans

Communion Service

BEGINNING OF REV. J. W. MORROW'S MINISTRY

Following Rev. Mr. Stephen's departure in 1905, the Church was served for a few months by Rev. J. A. Jaffary and then Rev. J. W. Morrow came in June 1906, and ministered in the Congregation for 11 years. He was a graduate of Dublin and Princeton Universities, who had been engaged in evangelistic work near Calgary and Wetaskiwin. Mr. Morrow was one of the most colorful and unique persons to live in Hamilton. His wife, Ethel, outspoken careless in manners and dress, but he had a great understanding of human nature, and he drew large Congregations to hear him preach during the years that he occupied St. John's pulpit. He tried to live his generosity out in a well-known fact that he was always living to the core of his community, and he did this in an unobtrusive way. Gladys McDougall Bateman tells a story about Mr. Morrow dropping in to call on her mother one day. As he rarely was in private, but he went in to join the ladies, wearing his big - sleeved coat, which he hadn't bothered to remove. When he sat down to have tea, he gave a sudden exclamation, and the ladies discovered that he had had a couple of eggs in his coat pocket. Planning to take them to a poor family, he had put them in his pocket, not wishing to be seen by the neighbors carrying a box into the house. Mrs. McDougall was obliged to turn cleaner and the coat pocket before he left.

Rev. J. W. Morrow

Mr. Morrow had a wide acquaintance among the rural residents of the area as well as those in the city. He often visited new starting churches and if the men were busy working, he would not hesitate to help with whatever was being done. He had a great interest in horses. He had no cars in those days, attending Stamperies and those that were held at such places as Waterdown and Dundas in the early days.

The scope of the area which Mr. Morrow served during the first ten years of his ministry here, can easily be discerned in an

excerpt from a letter which he wrote to Rev. Hugh McKellar and Rev. Prof. Presbyterian Pioneer Ministers in which he said: "The change in the whole district from Medicine Hat west as far as Medicine Hat and east as far as Swift Current, taking communities and locations everywhere except Maple Creek, alone with that."

One of the most important fields of work in any congregation is that of the young people. All early record books are missing, but we have brief references to the activities of such groups in St. John's. Mr. Stephen reported that the Christian Endeavour Society had been formed and that great things were expected of it in upholding the ministry of the Word, and in carrying out the practical work and attendance of the members of the Church. This group grew enlarged years. These other groups were mentioned in the 20s.

1. A Young People's Missions Society organized in 1904.
2. A "Willing-to-Work Society" raised $115.00 in 1908.
3. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society was formed

By 1909 the Church was free of debt for the first time and became a self-supporting Congregation, which reflected a healthy, flourishing church group.

During all of these years, the Manse had stood over near the railroad bridge, as the members decided that it was time to make the building on to the church property. On Jan. 3, 1908, tenders were received for removing the Manse, and that of Mr. Wm. Tom was accepted, was to be refixed and plastered. In August, 1909, Mr. J. C. Calder was paid $650.00 for the plastering, and Mr. H. C. York $4,349.00 for the carpenter work. Mr. Morrow, who had been Minister at St. John's since 1906, was a hard worker in the up-keep of manse, church, rather than at the Manse, it was reported. Any the big expense of re-building, Mr. Morrow stated that he wanted all of the manse rent money. $15.00 per month, applied on the debt for repairs.

In the fall of 1909 a fence was put around the church property and the fence and Manse were painted — that is, 7 the 14 was 16 years before the Church members could look with any amount of pride of their property. However, they were no more than free of debt when they began talking about a new church building.

BUILDING THE BRICK CHURCH IN 1909

At the annual congregational meeting on March 2 1909 a motion was made to establish a Building Fund. This was a very serious decision to be made by a group of only 78 members.

We seldom hear of the ladies taking part in meetings of the Church but of the annual meeting on March 7 1909 a motion was

made by Mrs. Mutchler and seconded by Mrs. Ewart that the Managers take up a subscription for the purpose of building a new church." Motion carried.

So we come to the time of building the present brick church. There are no church records of architects, plans or estimates, and we can only conclude that the men were all too busy to write it all down. We do know that a congregational meeting was held on July 8, 1902, at which time the former Board of Trustees was dissolved, and a new Board appointed, for the purpose of selling the Church property for St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat. Those being:

Mr. James Ferguson	Mr. Wm. Cousins
Mr. T. Tweed	Mr. W. T. Finlay
Mr. Robert Mitchell	Mr. A. Dewhirst

On August 24, they set the date for the opening of the new church for Sept. 21, 1902.

We are indebted to the weekly issues of the Medicine Hat News of Sept. 25, 1902 for an excellent account of the great occasion which took place on Sunday Sept. 21, 1902, when all members of St. John's attended the opening of their beautiful new church. A detailed description of the building, which is so familiar to us 75 years later, is seen through the eyes of a reporter as follows:

"The building is 64 feet long and approximately 42 feet wide, constructed of Medicine Hat sandstone and red brick, the stone walls being 24" thick, and the brick walls, 16" thick. The front entrance has steps leading to an open circle in the Sanctuary and Gallery. The pews are made of ash wood and the new seats of oak; oak, these also seating accommodation for 400 people. At the north end there is a vestry at one side and a choir room at the other, each with a set of suitable chairs. The basement ceiling is 12' high, and the Sanctuary 28' and arched. The windows are of cathedral glass and leaded. There is a tower 72' high at the south-west corner.

"The slate, brick and plastering were done by Charles Au.; carpentry finishing and painting by Watson and McInnes; he has furnaces by Williamson & Reay and the plans was prepared by M. Long.

"The Building Committee was composed of Messrs. Tweed Hargrave, Mr. Cousins, Mitchell and Dewhirst. The furnishings were provided by the Ladies Aid, and the church and furnishings will cost about $16,000.00.

"The first service was held at 11 a.m. on September 21 1902 with the Rev. Minister Mr. Morrow assisted by Rev. Patrick of Winnipeg Rev. M. Henderson of Calgary and Rev. Mr. McKillop of Lethbridge. The opening hymn gave all of the members an opportunity to join in expressing their all active sentiments in the words:—

"Within these walls peace abound
May all who hear in one agree
Where truth in man where Christ is found,
May Peace and concord ever be."

Dr Kilpatrick pastormed the Dedication Ceremony and then preached a most appropriate sermon and instruction to the Congregation. At 3 pm o'clock Mr Fleckman and Mr McKillop spoke and in the evening the church was crowded to the doors, to hear a further message from Dr Kilpatrick On Monday evening the Ladies Aid served tea in the basement which was crowded for two hours then all adjourned to the Sanctuary for a service addressed by Dr Kilpatrick, Mr McCrae and the Baptist minister Mr Croft

The Knoll Church 1912

Our history is surely enriched by the fine presence of our choir. We would like to point out, that in 1912 after Mrs Shirtcliffe and Mrs Ewart made the motion to take up subscriptions for a new church, the pledges must have been absurd. Because the value of the new church was placed at $15,000.00 and yet the debt listed at the end of 1912 was only $5,000.00.

The old frame church building was sold to the Medicine Hat School District for $750.00, and was moved down to Memorial Street School grounds, where it was used as a village school for a long time. So the building erected by the Presbyterians in 1884, and used by the School District for five years, was again occupied by Medicine Hat pupils after 1890.

We were impressed by the statement in the newspaper that the "furnishings" in the new church were supplied by the Ladies' Aid (this must have required a concentrated effort on the part of all the ladies, to raise such an amount of money. The only record we have of any of their projects is one reported in the News on Thursday, Aug. 7 1902, a few weeks before the opening of the new building. "The Ice Cream S. this held Thursday evening in the Bijou Block by the Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church was well attended and successful, $61.80 being realized. The Ladies Aid desire to thank the St. Barnabas Managers for loan of chairs, Rink Co. for loan of Rink, the Citizens' Band for musical program, and Walters & Hill for display chairs.

We can well imagine the happiness and enthusiasm of all our Presbyterian members, as they expanded their activities in the spacious new quarters of the brick church. In a young western community the accommodation was considered very adequate and entirely suitable to their needs. The community was growing quickly as evidenced by the fact that Medicine Hat was actually made a town in 1909 with a population of 1,512, during Mr. Finlay's term as Mayor, while in 1911 it achieved the status of a city with a population of 5,808. The increase in population was quickly reflected in the membership statistics of St. John's during that period, as follows:

1901	98 Members
1904	134 Members
1906	229 Members

After the new building was completed, the Managers quickly brought that they could re-let for a few years but found that the changes ran by taking place in the town meant that by the new situation. Medicine Hat suddenly assumed the potential that lay in the great gas fields behind the city so the Councilmen proceeded to advertise the natural resources the field was untapped until 1911. The coal-burning furnaces in the new church were converted to gas, and in May 1905, the Board members met this special meeting when they decided to light the church with gas as soon as possible. The secretary to write and get rate figures of articles required for lighting. In November they gave Mr. Wallen permission to cut a hole in the ceiling above the balcony "so it can be putting a 1/2 gas pipes to the light."

Vandalism is not a problem confined to the present generation.

as it is noted that in most parts of the basement windows along the Fifth Avenue side of the church had been broken. The Board decided that the only solution to this problem would be to replace the glass, then cover it with heavy wire screening. So both items were ordered from Winnipeg and the windows have been protected ever since.

SYNOD AFFILIATION

Increased population affected not only our town but the entire country as well, and Alberta did not become a province until 1905. We find that our church government reflects the growing structure. St. John's has become a part of Calgary Presbytery which was formed in 1887, then in 1892 the Presbytery was transferred from the Synod of Manitoba and included in the Synod of British Columbia. It was not until 1903 that the Synod of Alberta was formed, being made up of:

Calgary Presbytery	(1887)
Edmonton Presbytery	(1895)
Macleod Presbytery	(1894)

St. John's remained in Calgary Presbytery until 1914 when the Medicine Hat Presbytery was organized. There have been several changes since then, but finally in 1968 Macleod and Calgary united to form the Calgary-Macleod Presbytery.

CROSSING THE RIVER

Members of our church today give no thought to the problems of those who lived on the north side of the river years ago. From the time that people came to this locality on Horse Hill, the difficulty of crossing the Saskatchewan river was time-consuming and sometimes awkward. When the C.P.R. built the pile bridge many years to settled in the village as it unquestionably became necessary to establish a ferry for supplies, teams and equipment to be transported from one shore to the other. The landing took place where the ferry was crossing the west of the present railway until the Macleod Trail bridge was finally chosen to that spot in the river bank. So for 24 years the ferry plied back and forth as long as the river was free of ice.

In those days, when winter arrived the river froze solid, and all good travellers safely across whenever they chose. But there was always a short period of time when the ice was forming that the ferry could not run nor was it safe for people to venture across.

Child or adult every generation are always ready to take alarming risks, and the youngsters of 100 years no exception at all. Carl Hellgren relates a story about crossing the river one November day that makes the reader shudder at the though of what might have happened. Carl remembers vividly the time when he and his brother

and sisters decided to go over to town in spite of the fact that the ferry was tied up because the ice was too low on the river. The children trooped down to the river and viewed the situation. Mack elected to attempt good going as he was also carrying them he started jaggedly out on the ice. The other children straggled behind. He would toss a stone forward and when the ice held, they all walked in that direction. Another stone would be tossed — and the ice cracked, they tried a different angle, in that manner gradually proceeding across the river. Mr. and Mrs Hamilton were at home, blissfully unaware of the precarious expedition on which their children were embarked.

It must have been a wonderful occasion for parents as well as all residents of Medicine Hat when the traffic bridge was opened in 1907, and people were free to cross the river at any time. A church, The bridge was named for Mr. W. T. Finlay, who was the first Representative for the Medicine Hat Riding in Edmonton in 1905, and also the first Minister of Agriculture. He was one of the organizers of St. John's Congregation in 1885, and one of the first Elders of our Church in 1908.

We are happy to report that every one of the Hargrove children who crossed the ice that day, lived a good long life span. Continuing with us in 1973, to reminisce with the contents were McLaren Ewart and other members of the Historical Committee.

KNOX AND RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

It is not surprising that a second Presbyterian Church arose quite its appearance. The early history of Knox Presbyterian Church states that a Mission was started by Rev. Mr McLaren in 1904, and named the "East-End Presbyterian Mission", with services held in the basement of R. Hartley and D. Hartley's residence on Riverside. In 1906 the Rev. Mr. Moreman, secretary of Presbytery from Calgary visited Mr. Scallan to discuss the progress made at starting a new Congregation in the south-east district. Our Session were quite opposed to this but approved Mr. Crews as a hired Presbytery meeting in Calgary to present his views. The Presbytery could not settle the matter however the people in the east area of town felt that there was a need for a church there. So they proceeded to secure an old tin shed on Allowance Avenue, which they used running. The Knox Presbyterian Church Mr McLaren and Mr French served this Congregation for some 2 years, and by 1912 the membership of the Sunday School numbered 310 pupils necessitating three railways to accommodate all of the children. We must remember that those were not the days of paved streets and cement sidewalks, or of two cars to a garage. Every person walked wherever he went, so the little Knox Church rendered a greatly needed service to the area which it served. A few children of St John's members attended the Sunday

School. The c Sam and Ron Ge rtie, Ray John and Reed Frederick Manager Lon and Jenn Bobb Anne Lyla and Margaret Wyatt, Isabel Batterson Mor[illegible]dge and Kathy Begg McKay

Article 11 In Sunday School was started over on Pinetrees Th e one leung held n o college service on the Riverside School property. Th is was o community effort, as Pinetrees was attended o adjacent. little village. These days small was a long walk o toddlers one pre-schoolers to walk over the h ligh to the Chu ches scatter n the heart of town So members of al denominations pa nal lodge he te use as a Sunday School for he an dren e he first cl Some of th ch ildren of St. John's Presbyte rian ng on Riverside attended Su Sunday School at less urb they were o ter. Mrs. E ness K ng and Mrs. Carie Sterling taught these lo o small mally years. So ang Church was great y indebted to two other groups for the Sunday School education of some of our ch ldren for a good many years. First Corner Ring here vital memories of the activities a the Sunday School.

The responsibi ties assumed by the ea ly Friends of Managers with sound genius to every group of men who have need ses lar g e lems through the years — the lowest paid janitor and head m th re ganest, the organist wanted an increase in salary the caretaker was ding a poo job all seek ng a fair the building the budget assessment became bigge and bigger each year. The number of men serving o the Board was not changed for 23 years until of March 1967, he Congregation voted to elect two members to office specifying the three o three should represent the people living north of the o way trains.

THE TRANSITION YEARS
REAL ESTATE BOOM

Shortly after Medicine Hat became a city a real estate boom hit all of western Canada and its magnitude can scarcely be believed today in Medicine Hat. Lots were surveyed and staked out as fast as they could be registered. Property changed hands daily while prices skyrocketed. Miss Hazel Cousins tells us that one lot on Third Street and Fifth Avenue, but like all other speculators he borrowed the money at what was called "Shylock" rates of interest. Within a few months the property, at World War I, he, along with others, suffered the same fate and lost riches that had seemed so near at hand. In the light of the preceding information, we can scarcely condemn our realistic and practical Lucien Adi, when they succumbed to the lure of getting quick acquisitions and bought two lots at $5 and 7½ South of Street S.E., for $1,500.00 in 1911 hoping to make a huge profit. They paid $300.00 down, and assumed the balance at 8% interest. The property was deeded to Mrs. Ewart, Mrs. G. A. Cameron, Mrs. Hewson and Mrs. Nicholson, the word would felt with Mr. Stewart of the Imperial House.

When the Managers began to plan to build a new Manse in 1912, they asked the Ladies to give up the lots for the erection of the Manse, but they refused, saying that they wanted a new hotel house built on the Esplanade (First Street). The Adi continued to hold their property until 1926 when they voted to discontinue payment of any more taxes, and the land reverted to the City. In recent years, two small apartment blocks were erected on the lots. A tax notice from the City for 1929 this lot kept all these years, and is evidence of a bright dream — that failed.

CONTROVERSY IN THE CHURCH

In 8.3 we regret to report that trouble arose among the church members over an unknown issue. There are vague references to controversy that took place at the annual meeting early in 1913 but those minutes are not recorded in the book. However arguments at Board and Session meetings became so acrimonious that both Presbytery and Synod in Alberta became involved in trying to settle the matter. By the end of 1913 some members of the Session and Board had withdrawn from our Church, many members followed them and they proceeded to build together and from a new Congregation up on the hill, now up to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

A Church records a bitter thing, and this was no exception, for years a long time before many of the people now well even spoke to each other again.

Although 61 of our members transferred to Woolwich Central Church in 1913, we had an extremely large intake in new members, — 82 by Profession of Faith, and 76 by Certificate. At the March Communion service alone we received 37 new members, which is a record for one Sabbath for the entire history of St. John's, and no doubt reflects the tremendous influx of new residents to the city. So 113 ended the first thirty years of the history of our Congregation, during which we had grown from a handful of 2 Members in 1883 to 318 in 1913. Our charity fund had grown to a substantial sum and by a sensible economy and the co-operation of the men were fitted out the vestry completed by the end hoped, it is with sincere regret that we have recorded truthfully in the fact has arisen and caused such a division in the membership. It must be that members have forgotten their end not on Rules — "Within these walls may Peace abound"

ACTIVITIES DURING MR. MORROW'S LATEN YEARS IN ST. JOHN'S

If we preview the second thirty-year period of our history quickly we will note some upheavals and changes that face our congregation. The First World War – bravely and sorrow for our members Church Union voting in 1925 – latter debates and hard discussions. The Great Depression – which had to be endured to be believed. The Second World War – more sacrifices for all. Six changes in the Ministers serving St. John's pulpit.

It must be that adversity promotes strength, for we emerge a strong congregation in 1943 – as Country was still involved in a War which was going badly and we had the loss of many of our young people. However, in January 1944 all of this was veiled in the future and the Board of Managers went quickly ahead with plans for a new Manse. Mr. Morrow has served the Congregation since 1898, and he had become a well known and beloved Pastor, in the south-east part of Alberta. His home had been a needed haven for years, since he was a bachelor, but in 1912 that was changed when he and Mrs. Jessie Hewitt Ewart were married. Gifts for this well-known couple became the order of the day, so the Ladies' Aid proceeded them with a couch, while the Managers gave the chairs. The location of the new Manse was causing some controversy and quiet consideration of the foreman, Mr. Morrow suggested that "the Manse would have to be built around the couch."

Brick Manse 1914.

BUILDING THE BRICK MANSE

The next year after congregation provided a suitable Manse for their minister and family, when they built the brick home at 456 First Street S.E., a two-storey house, with a study on the main floor for the Minister. The Lands and being pleased with the location and plan, donated $1,000.00 toward the cost of the building and heating. Fireplaces in both the parlour and the study and connect to the heated, and a large verandah was built across the front, which some years later, was completely glassed in. In May 1918 tenders were called for the sale of the old Manse building, which had been purchased from the Red Coat Company in 1907. An offer of $1,100.00 was received, but it was said and moved away from the location where the church is, where it had stood since 1890, in September, the Managers got a reduction on the following Sunday for the building, this motion being the only proof that the offer was accepted.

During Mr. Mowat's pastorate in St. John's, the membership had grown from 63 in 1895 to a peak of 331 in 1913. The Elders who had to work side by side with him to guide the Congregation included original Elders or members of had in 1890 Messrs. Cousins, Farley, Mcgarvie and Turnbull. In 1901 Mr. Young was added. In 1907 Mr. Milne, Mr. W. H. May and Mr. Robert Mitchell, then in 1910 Mr. James Wilson and Mr. Charles Hunt. These eleven formed the Session until 1913, when 132 new communicants were received into St. John's. This greatly increased the work of these men as there were several vacancies to be filled. The new members were:

Mr. John T. Bell	Mr. H. L. Bogart	Mr. W. H. Armstrong	Mr. R. C. Porter
Mr. P. Robertson	Mrs. Wm. Rutherford	Mr. Henry Stewart	

THE CHURCH AND WORLD WAR I

The First World War broke out on August 4, 1914. The news came and became received in the War Liberty Bond drives, Red Cross supply work, knitting and the card pulse comforting of the anxious and the bereaved. Mr. Mowat was ed, done yeoman with the boys in uniform, preaching to large numbers of them when attended on Church in May 1915 he resumed the Ladies Aid to put on a dinner for the Soldiers, and they eagerly made plans to carry to a out in February 1916 Mrs. F. O. Stearns, who o t. Co. Scouts presented a Canadian flag to the Church to be hung in the Sanctuary to the right of the We. Our Communion service covering the period of the War lists the names of young men who attended some of our services before going Overseas, many with noteworthy of her family ion to. They were no doubt of the members of St. John's but we know that they were known to our Church while in Medicine Hat Mr. Mowat's sermons he mentioned his listeners that members today remember some of them who to no preached when they were in train.

Two Regiments were recruited in Medicine Hat during the Great War, and great interest was shown in all of the men by Mr. Marrow, who obtained suitable Honor Rolls, to which each Presbyterian soldier affixed his own signature. Lt.-Col. F. H. Shaddick was Commander of the 36th C.M.R.'s with 'Bill' St. John a man joining up while Lt.-Col. Nelson Spencer was the Commander of the 175th Battalion, in which 104 of our men became recruits. Both many more joined other regiments.

During this period in our church history a businesslike procedure was instituted in January, 1917 by reception members of the Congregation to comply with existing laws governing church property. Accordingly St. John's Presbyterian Church was incorporated as a Religious Society on Dec. 31 1917. The meeting of the Congregation had taken place on January 17, 1917 at a gathering attended by many members of St. John's, whose names appear on the photo-copy which hangs in the entrance of the church. The chairman of the meeting was Rev. J. W. Mellow, and the secretary was Thos. H. Hurst. The legal work and registration steps were taken by a well known lawyer in the earlier days of Medicine Hat, Stewart W. Mc.Lelan.

The Charter calls for thirty members to make up a quorum of the Congregation, any involving a sale or transfer of the property shall be in the hands of the Managers, together with the Secretary and the Minister.

Since the War had drawn many of our members into the Armed Forces the Congregation was not as large by 1918, but the outlook and attitudes of those who remained had changed greatly from palmier days. It became apparent that the members were dissatisfied with the ministry of Mr. Mellow, the minister resigned leaving the pulpit in June of after 23 years of service. Many of our members were deeply hurt over the acceptance of Mr. Mellow's resignation, and five of the Session members withdrew from their office for a time.

After his resignation in 1918, Mr. Mellow continued to reside in Medicine Hat, and in 1925 entered the United Church of Canada. From 1927 to 1930 he ministered to Bethel Church Congregations at Walsh and Burmurry. He died on February 4, 1932.

REV. THOMAS WILSON'S MINISTRY

Rev. Thomas Wilson

In October 1918, Rev. Thomas Wilson became the new Pastor of St. John's, and we can appreciate the difficulties he encountered in trying to heal the wounds caused by conflicting sentiments within the Congregation. The Fall Epidemic was raging, and the number of deaths in the community heightened and appalled the people everywhere. The new Minister was immediately faced with many family crises where death struck so brutally. The War finally ended with the Armistice on November 11, 1918, and peacetime activities

were resumed. Men returned home to their families, and once more matters of business which an Annual Meeting was an occasion of new blisters, since the Session had been reduced in numbers. At the annual meeting in January 1919, the names of eight men were nominated, and after five of those were elected to office, those being:

Harvey Sennett re-elected A. or Hamilton
Tom Mayhew
James Mitchell
Wm. Crawford

During his term in St. John's Mr. Wilson saw the Congregation grow to 438 members. Minutes of the Board of Managers and Ladies' Aid are the only source of historical data. The main items of interest are gleaned from the comments of annual church meetings, in which the names of organizations are mentioned but the names of the officers of activities (however) are noticed from the names of persons named. Thus the whole church was alive with activity. One new group formed was the Young Women's Class ... was organized by Mrs. James Mitchell and Mrs. Tom Murray in January 1920. The purpose of this group was partly social but their chief responsibility was to raise money to buy flowers on the church every Sunday and they even found other ways in which to be helpful. In 1925, they paid the cost of planting a lawn and shrubs at the church and of erecting a fence across the vacant lot on the west side of the property. This group flourished for about 25 years, — when the "young" ladies had reached the middle years, and new groups were formed.

Between the years 1916 and 1925, the following organizations are mentioned in annual meeting reports:

1916 Boys Choir - intermediate hockey (baseball) belonged to Provincial Organization.

1918 Girls' Club - doing patriotic work.

1921 Mission Band.

1922 C.G.I.T. - organized by Miss Fell.

1923 Junior Boys - report given by Willie Wray and Gavin Begg.

1923 Trail Rangers - report given by Hazel McIntosh and Jean Anderson.

1924 Plan to start a Men's Club.

THE PIPE ORGAN AND THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHOIR

In 1910, St. John's achieved a dream of many years, when a Casavent organ was installed in the Sanctuary. The stimulated great interest in the Choir, which reached a peak of accomplishments in the 1920's never reached since. In 1924, 25 and 26, the St. John's Choir entered the annual Provincial Festival in Edmonton competing in the class of 21 voices or less. The Choir had to raise $45.00 for their expenses in travel by train - Edmonton each year, and in 1924, under the leadership of Mr. Foxcroft they won the Shaw Shield. In 1925, they won it again, under the baton of Mr. Robert Sutton; but when they entered in 1926, they did not by only one-half point. If they had won it the third time, they would have been permitted to keep the Shield. A picture of the 1926 Choir is shown in this book.

We know that Mr. Wilson must have been very deeply involved in all of the discussions, both with groups and families, over the subject of Church Union, which was facing all Presbyterians at this time, since he was named Honorary President of the Committee organized on Dec. 16, 1924, to sponsor the Continuing Presbyterian Church. In 1925, shortly after these matters were settled, he resigned to move to a church in Vancouver. A very full account of the farewell party for Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, arranged by the Men's Club is reproduced late in this chapter.

CHURCH UNION

The word Church Union has a little meaning to Presbyterian Church members in 1975, but at a time of the writing of this book it became one of the most emotional issues ever to be discussed in the history of Canada. Not we may appreciate our heritage and understand the heartaches and bitterness which were caused by the union between Methodist and Congregational churches in Montreal and these Presbyterian Congregations that voted on the matter and decided whether or not to unite. Union.

The subject of Union was discussed for almost twenty years.

Back row: [illegible] Row 2: [illegible]
Patsy Carle, Wilma Hale, Mavis Dryburgh, Mrs. Foulds, Mrs. Fulger, Mrs. Mowat, Mrs. Hickman, Mrs. MacArthur
Miss Smith, Miss R. Westhaver, Retha Morrison, Mr. Flowers, Miss J. Lussier, Miss Mae Thompson, Miss Sinclair

and then come to a head. When at the request of the Church Courts, the Parliament of Canada passed legislation in 1926 pertaining to the legal aspects of property, assets and bequests. To complicate matters, each Province had laws covering church property rights, and all of those had to be undersigned.

The Historical Committee is indebted to the late Mr. A. C. Hawthorne for a minute book which he compiled as Secretary of the Committee that was appointed in our church in 1924 to call meetings, obtain speakers, and send cars and arrange for the necessary voting on Church Union. They were fortunate in having two able lawyers who were members of St. John's, namely Mr. Gilbert Blackstock and Mr. W. A. Biggs, who did plenty many of the complicated details connected with such a step. The fact stands out clearly in the record and that is, that all Presbyterian Congregations were invited to take a vote among their members as to whether or not they would join United, otherwise, their property automatically came into the possession of the new United Church of Canada.

At a meeting of our members on December 7 1924, the following committee was appointed "for the preservation and maintenance of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat

Rev. Mr. Thos. Wilson	Mr. A. Hawthorne
Mr. Jas. Hargrave	Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne
Mr. F. W. Spreeze	Mr. A. C. Hargrave
Mr. C. A. Ball	Mr. Henry Stewart
Mr. T. R. Canaday	Mrs. A. McDougall
Mrs. J. E. Nicholson	

At the next meeting, the names of Mr. Biggs and Mr. Blackstock were added. The urgency of the matter is seen in the fact that committee meetings were called on Jan. 7, 8, 17, 22, and a congregational meeting on December 29th, at which time very precise and legal procedures were agreed upon

1. Session must provide a list of qualified members.
2. A ballot box was to be obtained from the City
3. Balloting papers were appointed — Mr. J. R. Sp
   Two Deputies were appointed — Mr. Henry Stewart and Mr. Wm. Crichton.
4. Scrut neers of both pro and anti Unionists were appointed.
5. Thirty voting times were set for a two week period —
   between Dec. 27 1924 to Jan. 14 1925
6. Each day after pol s closed the sealed ballot box and the voters list was to be deposited at the Bank of Montreal.
7. Ballots were to be counted at close of poll on January 14 and the voters' list be in box, and records were to be kept at the bank for safe-keeping.

The need to safeguard every step of the procedure is seen when we realize that ownership of the church and manse property of S

John's recorded on the outcome of that ballot. The letter stating the result of the ballot is pasted into the minute book, and shows.

St. John's Presbyterian Church

BALLOT OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Are you "Against" Church Union?	331 VOTES AGAINST UNION
Are you "In Favour" of Church Union?	63 Votes for Union
	7 spoiled ballot

The letter "X" in the space underneath one of the above questions will signify the voter's decision.

A vote of thanks to the Returning Officers and Committee was forwarded to Mr. E. G. Elliston, "for the able manner in which the poll had been conducted, and the harmonious manner in which the committee had been conducted throughout." This was a gracious gesture on the part of Mr. Elliston, as he was apparently on the side of Church Union. At the next meeting of the Board of Managers, Mr. R. E. Keating, Mr. T. F. MacCrae, Mr. E. G. Elliston and Mr. R. C. Black tendered their letters of withdrawal from the Church. These resignations were received, and after some discussion, were accepted. Mr. Keating's resignation, however, was not effective until June 10, 1925, the date on which Church Union would come into force. And so St. John's lost some valued and faithful members, but kept their Church!

Quite soon the only Presbyterian Congregation left in Medicine Hat after the vote took place at Westminster Church voted for Union. Knox Congregation did the same, and immediately planned to amalgamate with the Washington Avenue Methodist Church, retaining the name of Municipal United Church. Both our ministers and most members found themselves standing almost alone, as the Medicine Hat Presbytery was also wiped out. Since its formation in 1894, it had grown to include nearly four churches and congregations in all — namely, St. John's, Knox, Westminster, South Seven Persons, Bassano, Bowell, Cypress Hills, Dunmore, Winnifred, Walsh, Orion, Manyberries, Glassford, Thompson, Ranchville, Wisdom and seven or eight other small points.

After June 9 1925 only St. John's and Bassano Congregations remained, and they were taken into the Calgary Presbytery. Prior to Church Union, there were close to 1,000 Presbyterian children in the

your churches of Medicine Hat and Redcliff (Knox 269, St. John's 280, Westminster 286, and Redcliff 180). So we can appreciate from those facts alone, the staggering blow that almost obliterated Presbyterianism in western Canada. In Ormside, the loss was a [illegible] great, and from 1926 onward, the continuing Presbyterian Churches in Ormside have formed the bulwark of strength for the Covenanted and scattered throughout the West.

Forty [illegible] members withdrew their certificates, but a few continuing Presbyterians came from other Congregations. Recognizing the fact that fresh representation should appear on the Board of Managers and the Session, a meeting of the Board on Sept. 8, 1925, took [illegible] action. A motion was made that all members of the present Board resign and that a new Board be elected at a congregational meeting to be called for September 22. This apparently was done and several men were also nominated for the Session. Election results are not recorded [illegible] the report of the Annual Meeting in January which at once that the following were elected as Elders.

Mr. F. Ferguson	Mr. W. Milan	Mr. John [illegible]
Mr. Jas. Cleland	Mr. A. W. Ball	Mr. D. Martin

The new Board of Managers was made up of:

Mr. A. J. Hargrave	Mr. J. McNab	Mr. F. Jasha
Mr. T. Murray	Mr. Roy Dunfee	Mr. P. Almquist
Mr. A. E. Hanks	Mr. F. H. Sproule	Mr. H. B. McNab
Mr. A. Anderson	Mr. V. Parrish	

When the Board met, Mr. J. E. [illegible] was elected Chairman of the Board, and Mr. J. A. Bell was appointed as Secretary. So the problems of Church [illegible] were resolved. In St. John's, and faithful workers carried on the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat.

Seventy new members were received by Profession of Faith and thirty by certificate in 1926, so we ended the year with a membership of 427. By this token we can see that Church [illegible] [illegible] members. In fact, it must surely have strengthened the loyalty and convictions of all members as they pondered the values involved in casting their ballots on the subject of Church Union

REV. T. WILSON IS PRESENTED WITH ADDRESS

ACCOMPANIED BY A BEAUTIFUL SILVER TEA SERVICE BY ST JOHN'S CONGREGATION.

The regular meeting in St. John's Presbyterian was held in the church parlors on Tuesday Jan 25th 1938 when over 60 members of the choir and congregation assembled together for the purpose of spending a social hour with Mr and Mrs. Wilson, who are leaving next week to Vancouver where Mr Wilson assumes the pastorate in Mount Pleasant Presbyterian church. The choir was taken in charge initially by the vice-president, J. H. Haines, who in his opening remarks explained that the presentation at that meeting was due to the removal of the president, Mr. A. V. Burpee who had been promoted from Moncton where he is an important position in the C.P.R. at Centreville. Mr Haines therefore asked that a new president be elected and J. H. Symonds was chosen by acclamation.

They followed a program of song and prayer all of very high order intermingled with community singing under the direction of J. H. Haines. The choir so included "The Ladies, St. John Congregation and the Congregating Presbyterians (Haines the latter being proposed by Al. et Symonds and seconded by J. H. Haines). All the items were very capably handled but special mention must be made to Mr Blackwater's excellent rendering of a certain evangelist, a silk sight down through the ages and today in victorious emergence from the recent stern rebellion and in future glory and greatness.

The last items on the list was proposed by R. J. Symonds, in sum: "That the Requesting Reader — the speaker saying this he would need his elaborations — lloyd George in order to do the subject justice. He (Reed) simply on his work was better served if he just like, without it be shaved and in his whole ornamental

Following this, J. A. Hall brought in a neat but few words on a tangible token to the congregation's esteem and goodwill in Messrs. deeply touched, tried to reply but his emotions overcame him and he only managed to take a few words in broken and not down.

The meeting closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne, the whole company proceeded taking the opportunity to shake hands with the minister and Mrs. Wilson, who spoke a few words of God Speed.

The tea-boys in the evening were Mrs. Blackadder, Mrs. Lockhart and Miss A. Sproule—all in their aprons eating obviously a excellent meal. These participating in the tables were Misses Barnes, Hill Sproule, Blackadder, E. A. Reid and Mr. Symonds. Mrs. Harry Tweedie assisted serving, so that pleas left nothing to be desired.

OUR CONTINUING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas McConnell

St. John's Church, having elected a strong Board of Managers etc. around new members for our Session, were now faced with the immediate problem of calling a minister, because of Mr. Hill's resignation. At the annual meeting on January 30, 1926, the members voted to extend a call to Rev. Thomas McConnell, B.A., of Ireland, and formerly a pastor in Modesto and Oakland, California. Mr. McConnell returned to Canada in 1924 to travel across the country as Dominion Organizer for the Committee promoting the idea of "A Continuing Presbyterian Church". In this capacity he had preached in the pulpit of St. John's on Dec. 7, 1924 at the evening service. Mr. Hill spoke at a meeting of the Congregation directly after the close of the church service when six members signified for the same purpose.

Rev. Mr. McConnell started his ministry on February [illegible], 1926, occupying the pulpit until November 1927. This was a difficult period of adjustment after a year [illegible] of arrangements and broken friendships as interest seemed to flag for a while. However, when the annual meeting came around, in January 1927, it was found that the Church was free of debt for the second time only in its 44-year history. Thus Mr. McConnell made a [illegible] that was carried out for years, namely, that the Congregation should [illegible] the Chairman of the Board as Chairman of the annual meeting. This was immediately endorsed, and Mr. J. E. [illegible] took the chair and conducted the meeting. The report of the Session was given by Mr. James Clelland, revealing the disturbing period of uncertainty over Church Union, and it was also noted that the [illegible] of this mild, compliant [illegible] to a meeting. George Dent gave the report for the Men's Club and new names appeared in the election of members for the Managing Board — Chief J. M. Taylor, Mr. A. C. Hawthorne and Mr. E. Nesbitt. Mr. J. C. Hargrave was named the new Chairman of the Board.

At the Minister's suggestion, a Walker & Register was purchased, and a desk by it on which to place it in the vestibule in the spring of 1927 a break got ago was built at the Manse at a cost of $28.00. Also a piano was purchased, with assistance from the Choir and the Ladies' Aid.

Membership in the Sunday School stood at 217 and the commemoration in the basement was completely undesirable as in May 1927 the Ladies' Aid sent a delegate of nine members. It discussed with the Board the possibility of erecting a new hall, and also

of remodelling the church kitchen. A joint committee was set up, but it made only slow progress with regard to the hall.

In the summer the Joint Committee proceeded with alterations to the church basement. When the furnace was moved to the kitchen, it was found that the kitchen required to be new-wired, and the electrical work was carried out by the Ladies' Aid, the expenses amounting to $579.00.

In November 1927, the Joint Committee had presented an estimate to the Board, for an extension to the basement with a cement floor, re-plastering, a roof, and an archway put through to the main basement, cost being $2,500.00. Occasional references were made to the Hall later but with the more urgent matter of choosing a new minister all other things were laid aside. When the Depression struck the country, any thoughts of improvement were abandoned, and the Congregation had to wait for 25 years before the dream of a new hall became a reality.

Rev Mr. McConnell left our Congregation in November 1927 and again, the members were faced with the task of finding a minister

REV. M. STEWART BLACKBURN

Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn

Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn and his family came to Medicine Hat on March 14, 1928, and he served St. John's admirably for ten years. There is a complete lack of written information about his ministry here, all those who were associated with him, all speak of his wonderful sympathy and understanding which he showed in all branches of a pastor's work. Mrs. Blackburn [illegible] things was to sit on the Congregation and to her [illegible] Mrs. Blackburn often used the talents as a musician and she was also a valued member of the Women's Missionary Society and to the Choi

During the six [illegible] Mr. Blackburn encountered the problem of having a [illegible] young boys who left [illegible] attend Sunday School and were at the same time too young to participate in the adult activities of the Church.

Mr Jack Parks employed at that time by the Department of Agriculture as well the group set for all Blackburn by forming a Senior Sunday School class and a Young Men's Club. The Club met Sundays during church service for rolling was instituted and again on Tuesday nights for other activities. A sporting hog gamble been, a tumbling horse and music were specified from somewhere and Tuesday night became a big event for the boys.

Mr Parker had at one time in his youth been a professional boxer and was extremely adept at physical fitness activities and of course gradually by boxing it so interesting to note that a prize of Five Pounds was offered to the boys by Mr Parks for any member of the Club who with boxing gloves on could manage to hit his Parsley on the nose. None of the boys was ever able to collect this money though it was hard many times.

However before the term was up and to the surprise of everyone Mr Blackburn donned the gloves and wearing out it was not long after he managed to such one what the other young men were unable to do. He did not however take the money because he said that he too had his profess pen ty ing and a boxer during the university years. The Mr Parker's assistant on the day on was certainly instrumental in the the marble and the Club were concerned.

The boys activities no other many hikes only picnics during the summer and sleigh riding parties during the winter.

The entire country was held in the grip of the depression from 1929 - 1936, when the Medicine Hat District was especially affected being the centre of one of the driest areas on the Prairies, dust storms and Rough Enough heartbreaks and poverty was after year and much relief work had to be done by every church organization. The organization of the town committee static for a number of years. St. Johns continued doing its best with small incomes, no debt nothing being attempted in any way. Although the church membership stood at 424 in 1926 the giving of the members seemed unusually small, so when the stock market crashed in 1929, our Board had their problems. These were indicated in the Ladies. A Party came to the rescue by giving the Treasurer of the Board all the cash on hand. So he was paid $400.00 and the ladies ended the year with a Balance of $6.28. From 1931 to 1935, the Ladies Aid gave a yearly cheque towards the Budget.

Another factor of the drastic situation of the economy throughout the country and the Church was the fact that all school children's stipend was reduced from $2,250.00 per year to $2,250.00 for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934. In many cases, teachers were receiving for about $40.00 per month.

In spite of the situation the Ladies' Aid became determined

GROW CLUB
PERFECT ATTENDANCE TRIP

to make a start towards some part of the cost in the basement, and in 1933, they opened a special building fund. By December of that year they had acquired $700.00 and, March of this money was raised by putting on a play entitled "The Melting Pot" at the Empress Theatre, running three nights and assisted by Stanley Blanchard Members of the Cercle sold the tickets, and the cast was served lunch at the church after each performance. It was truly a congregational effort. Then in June, they staged a Highland Gathering under the direction of Mrs. Lorne Lawlow in the meadow south of Mrs. Hamilton's home at Spadewood Auto Court. This was one of the most delightful outdoor events ever held by St. John's Members.

In 1936, in time for the Fiftieth Anniversary of St. John's, the Ladies Aid, like all good Presbyterians, wanted everything to look its best so they undertook two large projects. The Minister's small study was completely renovated, under the supervision of Mrs. Tom Hepburn and the late Mrs. Herbert Stearns, with new furniture and a fireplace making a more comfortable room for the Pastor. Then, with the encouragement of Mr. Blackburn, the new red carpet and underpad, for aisles and entire front of the church were purchased and laid at a cost of $501.00. This was considered a great extravagance in a depression year but their choice of fine quality carpet has been wonderful since that same carpet is still in use forty years later, having been given to Riverside Presbyterian Church when our Sanctuary was remodelled in 1967.

A good deal of relief work was carried out during the depression, especially in giving clothing to the needy and for two years, groceries were purchased by the Ladies Aid for two families. The ministry spent increasing amounts of money during this period for assistance of January 1935, that the stores advertising clothing sale at less cents a pound and put sheets at night cents a pound, we can see that the girls were a real help to the family.

ST JOHN'S GRADUATES IN DEACONESS TRAINING

Young people have always striven to the conditions in which they live and the need for Christian leadership during the early time must have prompted two St. John's girls to attend the Missionary and Deaconess Training School (late named Ewart College) in Toronto. They were Miss Jane Nicholson daughter of Mrs. Mary Gordon and Miss Gertrude Rolfe daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rolfe. Both girls took the full course, graduating in April, 1908.

Jane Nicholson's program was the work for which she had been trained, going on to Fleury Cape Indian Mission, then to Birtle Indian School where she was the girls matron for some time. She returned to Medicine Hat in 1941 when she entered the business world for several years. She married Edithbury in the Bruce and Peregrine exhibition

Tom Gordon

of St. John's until she was married to Paul Green in 1948 and moved to Vancouver Island.

Bernice Rusk's career as a missionary is obscure. She took off from St. John's with her friend Harwood. It is known that she trained as a registered nurse, after going to college. She went to Rocky Mountain House, with the Women's Missionary Society, opened a hospital there, serving in the dual capacity of nurse and Deaconess for some time. Her next sphere of service was in one of our Foreign Mission fields, where she contracted a tropical disease that meant her return home. After a long convalescence, she moved to California, where she was (last) known and heard from by any of St. John's members.

The deaths of several revered senior members of long standing, added to the inadequate pastoral care by our Minister, on or 1957 Mr. Ellis Morris' resignation, and his preached his farewell sermon to the Congregation on the evening of Sept. 15, 1957. At that time Fifth Avenue United Church members committed their own service, joining St. John's to pay tribute to our Minister with Rev. Mr. Rawbridge assisting in the pulpit.

During the War, Mr. Rawbridge donned uniform as a Chaplain, and while he was stationed in Calgary, he assisted St. John's many times when the pulpit was vacant, especially when his services were needed to conduct a funeral. His interest in our Church extended long after he left our City. After the War, he served in several areas of Western Canada, his last charge before retirement in 1960 being at St. Andrew's-Westminster, Kelowna, B.C. Mr. Rawbridge was predeceased by many of his friends when he died on August 1, 1972 at the age of seventy-six years.

Mr. E. Ackburn was Malcolm J. John was a lad in St. John's Church. After entering the ministry of our Presbyterian Church in a Christian service has been principally carried on in the United States, where he moved about 1955. There he became involved in many political and civil causes. About 1970 Mr. John was the only white minister in any U.S.A. black denomination — the African Episcopal Methodist Church. Martin Luther King had spoken at this church in Memphis Tenn. only the night before his assassination. A minister visiting St. John's reports that about 1970, Malcolm was a member of the southern Christian Leadership Conference and was very much involved in the struggle for civil liberties and racial justice in the South in U.S.A.

THREE PULPIT CHANGES IN SIX YEARS

After ten years of ministry by Mr. Blackburn, the Congregation was faced with the unfamiliar task of choosing a new minister. Several men preached for a call, and the choice fell upon the Rev W. G. Grant Hollingsworth, who with his wife came to us from Prince Rupert to serve as our minister in January 1938. His ministry was affected immediately by the outbreak of World War II, 1939, and many of our members who had seen active service in the First World War were called upon to watch their children enter this fateful battlecast. Remembrance Day in 1939 drew an overflow Congregation to St. John's as people gathered in mutual sympathy to face the future. The church was so great that broadcast facilities were installed in the Sunday School room downstairs, by Mr. J. J. Nott and Mr. Jas. Ball, to accommodate the an anticipated attendance, to hear the "Goodwill" speaker, Rev. Hugh Jones of Great Falls, Montana.

Rev. W. Hollingworth

In March 1939 Mr. Hollingworth announced to the Session that he had been invited for service as a Chaplain in the Air Force, and prepared us for his imminent departure. Just as every family had to adjust to the demands of War so our church family was obliged to do the same, and Mr. Hollingworth was granted leave of absence to enter the Air Force.

The Congregation proceeded to call Rev. Wilfred Butcher from St. John's, Nfld., to be our interim Minister, and he and Mrs. Butcher arrived on Oct. 12, 1939. The Air Force Training Camp No. 34 on the western outskirts of this City was created early in 1941, and Mr. Butcher immediately gave a great deal of his time and ministry to visiting at the base and became a popular minister with the men of all ranks, to such a degree that the Session had to limit the number of letters re Presbyterian men stationed at No. 34 and our church began to be packed by parties of our Services in their uniforms.

In June 1941 Mr. Butcher was appointed as a part-time Chaplain to at No. 34 which necessarily curtailed the time he could spend on congregational activities. Our membership was fast moving to an even more and more responsible position among the various Groups in the Church. In October Mr. Sam Kirk was tendered a resignation as Sunday School Superintendent since he had donned a uniform too but he was only given leave of absence, and Mr. R. Kerr MacDonald

Rev. William Butcher

a retired school teacher assumed Mr Gibble's duties for some time.

In spite of all the problems of Wartime, the Ladies' Aid had continued to increase their Building Fund, started in 1935. The need for additional space became imperative, and finally in the summer of 1941 a small extension to the church was erected. The primary theme of this construction was a hall of all purpose caused by the Trustees of the Ladies' Aid to Mr. Creamer for the sum of $3,97.00. A brick structure capable of 25 feet square was built on ground next on the north end of the church, with a small corridor through into the kitchen. This consisted of one room, heated with a gas stove and was a very plain but tidy, but inexpensive, great relief for space for Boy Scouts, Cubs and Sunday School classes, from 1941 to 1953, when it was demolished to make room for the new Christian Education Centre.

On Dec 21 1941 Mr. Butcher left the manse in Charlesbury in the Air Force and we were faced with the awkward situation of trying to obtain ministers for supply since our pulpit was not actually vacant. The Session consulted the Presbytery in January 1942 on the matter after which an application was sent to Rev. Mr. Hollingsworth explaining the situation in which St. John's was placed. As a result, Mr. Hollingsworth immediately offered his services as our pastor thus freeing us to look for a permanent minister.

During the vacancy following Mr. Butcher's departure the Church was supplied by various Ministers, including Rev. H. P. H. Fairclough for several months.

MINISTRY OF REV. ROBERT TAYLOR

At a meeting of St. John's held on Sunday, March 21, 1948, the Congregation accepted the report of the Supply Committee to extend a call to Rev. Robert Taylor of Indian Head, Saskatchewan. This was accepted and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and baby daughter arrived in June, to spend the next 24 years in the hearts, during which time they built themselves into the hearts and lives of St. John's members.

Rev. Robert M. Taylor

WORLD WAR II ACTIVITIES

The War cast its shadow on all aspects of life, and ministering to the bereaved and anxious families became a daily part of our Pastor's duties. The St. John's Honor Roll for the Second World War contains the names of 192 men and women who enlisted in the Armed Services. The Basilian and not a father of parents, to all of our members in the Forces while the Ladies' Aid financed the frequent mailing of parcels to members in uniform. A visit of men from the Royal Air Force Base came to stay in our church one Sunday in July and many members opened their homes and even "accepted" a boy from No. 34 during those War years.

In spite of the ending of the War in Europe, our Session agreed that a service of Thanksgiving should be held on the very day that hostilities ceased, so on V.E. Day our Church was filled to capacity with citizens who came to express their thanks to God for the end of the European part of the War. In March 1948 a "Welcome Home" held in the church was an outstanding success. The Session thanking the Ladies' Aid and the P.S.A. Club for the arrangements.

The custom of singing the National Anthem at every service during the War was now discontinued and our Church gradually adjusted to peace-time activities. At the spring Communion Sunday in March 1946, there were 594 communicants in the service, thus indicating the return of many of our members from Overseas.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The ensuing years of Mr Taylor's ministry which produced unanimity of concern for the spiritual and financial welfare of the Congregation in its outreach and worship, proved to be very rewarding years for St. Ann's. After services at Communion Service in March it 1968, as recorded as 246 at the morning service and 75 at the evening service. The membership increased steadily until it reached 468 in 1980, the largest recorded.

PRAYER GROUPS

Although weekly prayer meetings were part of the spiritual life of St Johns from the earliest days, they were eventually discontinued as was the custom of holding Preparatory Services in the Friday evening before Communion Sunday. However during his ministry, Mr Taylor organized a group of men who met for prayer every Friday morning for twelve years. The informal gathering took place from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. at the church and although enlightened by only a few, the members grew to twelve or fourteen men. Each man present took a turn reading from the Bible or from a religious journal. Of importance to all was the custom of praying for those who were sick or in trouble. It was found that this type of faith healing had a powerful effect.

Mrs R. L. Taylor organized a small group of ladies who gathered for prayer, in various homes one morning a week at 10:00 a.m. This group met faithfully for a good many years, and enjoyed the fellowship of meeting together.

Our Members some of isolation here in the West have always been a concern of the Session, and one method of trying to overcome this has been the encouragement of the reading of our church magazine the "Record" by all of the Congregation. Miss Ritter was absent at Session meetings in discussing how best to operate this service in belonging to no great work of the Presbyterian Church. Our Church in Toronto was also concerned about the lack of interest in the magazine as is evidenced in the minutes of Session on Nov 9th, 1948. "The Clerk of Session read a communication from Rev J. H. McInnes, Convener asking for some support of the publication. The matter was discussed very fully some of the Session even suggesting that the whole to rest of the Book be improved. With this end in view someone was to write to Toronto to get the Financial Statement. The distribution of the Record continued to decline until it was decided to work out a better system, at commencing in June 1948, the Record was mailed out to members. Mrs. Tom Murray took charge of the work in 1948 and by 1952, there were 181 subscribers in the list but increased mailing costs created more problems. Finally in 1958, it was decided to undertake the expense of placing the Record in

many home in St. John's. The two stimulated the interest and broad spiritual of all members by continued contact with the vision and outreach of our Presbyterian Church both at home and abroad.

PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

The Presbyterian Training School opened in 1949 with Mr. Taylor largely responsible for its continued operation through his service as a lecturer and Moderator. The Board appointed to administer its affairs included members of St. John's to attend the various courses being offered, as well as to give of their wisdom to assist in financing the continued operation of the School. Rev. Jesse Higgins served as Chairman for the first year while Rev. Stuart Cells held this position during the final two years of its operation.

Presbyterian Training School

While the student body never reached capacity, about 45 graduates from the School, notably Rev. Donald Kerslake (a former Elder of St. John's), Rev. Robert Wyatt and the Rev. Larry Jackson, Moderator of P.T.S. would not be complete without mention of the Rev. Dr. John Brant who served as Dean of the School from 1948 to 1955. Dr. Brant endeared himself to the students of P.T.S., the staff, St. John's Congregation and everyone with whom he came in contact.

In 1956 our Church became very interested in the organization of a new Congregation on Riverside in connection with the Presbyterian Training School, located in the Hargrave Home. The negotiations dragged on for some time with the Board in Toronto, trying to finance the erection of a church building. St. John's members went behind the eight of $2,000.00 in donations which were sent to Toronto to be held in trust for the new church group. In May of 1957 the Board agreed $40,000.00 for the Riverside Church group. Interest free, then at the annual meeting the next year voted to make

ials an outright gift. Also, the carpet and furniture for the Sanctuary were given to the new church when we carried out renovations to our own Sanctuary in 1967. Ever since Hyndale church was built, we have joined in their meetings in holding joint summer services.

In 1955, the Church purchased equipment for broadcasting over the local radio station and regular broadcasts of Church services, usually every sixth Sunday, has continued ever since. This has been part of the spiritual outreach of St. John's to both city residents and the rural areas of northern Alberta.

Melville Hall superintended a period of expansion during the years 1961-6, throughout the City and in the early '60's resulting in rapid development of new residential districts in the Crescent Heights area of town. The Congregation decided that we should be prepared to build another Presbyterian Church in that part of the city. Therefore, lots were reserved in east Crescent Heights with the idea of building at a later time. However the property had to be abandoned and the lots reverted to the city.

MEMBERS WHO ENTERED CHURCH SERVICE

The influence of Dr. Taylor's ministry in the Congregation led to the rewarding actions taken by two of our young men who made the decision to enter the ministry and I make it their life work, those being William Graham and Tocal Kamiya.

REV. WILLIAM JOHN GRAHAM

Bill Graham holds the unique distinction of being the only truly native born St. Johns having baptized, raised and confirmed within the Congregation who has entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in its 91 year history.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Graham, Bill was born in Medicine Hat on January 19th, and was baptized in St. John's by Rev. Thomas Wilson. After attending local elementary schools, he entered Alexandra High School graduating in 1943 with his senior matriculation, in the same year he joined the R.C.A.F. and served until his discharge in 1945.

Having been brought up through the Christian education programme of St. John's, Bill became a communicant member of the Church at age 18, being confirmed at a Preparatory Service by the Rev. Dr. Roxburgh who was a supply minister in 1942 during the seminary period preceding the arrival of the Rev. Robert Taylor. It was in 1946, during Dr. Taylor's early ministry in Medicine Hat that Bill decided to enter the Christian ministry. He entered the University of Toronto in '47 graduating with a B.A. degree in '50, in that same year he entered Knox College Toronto graduating in theology

in 1960. In May of 1963 he was ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and inducted into the charge of Westminster Church, Edmonton where he remained until 1969.

For the next two years, still served as Minister in the same Church extended charge at Saskatchewan Village in Scarborough, Ontario. In 1971 he became a Chaplain in the R.C.A.F. serving successively in Toronto, Goose Bay, Trenton, Bagotville and Cold Lake Alberta, where he still serves.

Bill married the former Catherine MacLean Paterson of Toronto in September 11, 1961. They have three children - Linda 16, Cameron 13, and Scott 11.

REV. DONALD G. KEMBLE

Donald Kemble was born in Chester, England, where he received his elementary education before entering the accounting profession. Coming to Medicine Hat in 1948 with the R.A.F., he met and married Miss Vera Pickles of the City. After the War, he returned to Medicine Hat, continuing his work as an accountant.

Interest in St. John's Church led Donald to attendance at the Presbyterian Training School, from which he graduated, and to election to membership on the Session of St. John's in 1952. He decided to enter the ministry and while attending Bethesda College, he was appointed Student Minister at Southminster Church in Brandon. After graduating with a B.A. from Brandon College in 1956, he moved to Toronto in order to attend Knox College, serving at Westminster and St. Stephens churches while a student. After graduating in 1958, he was ordained the same year, serving several congregations in Ontario. He is now the Minister of Knox Presbyterian Church at Caledon East, Ontario.

Rev. Wm. J. Grant

Rev. Donald G. Kemble

BUILDING EXPANSION

The Christian Education Centre

The growth of the City of Medicine Hat was very slow during the War years and it was some time before much expansion took place. However, beginning in 1948, the population started to double in numbers until in 1964 when it numbered 25,000 to 25,270. The large industries were located in the city which helped to bolster the economy of the district, and the community became prosperous, an evidence of by the building of small, new homes in every part of land on the outskirts of the city. The effects of the growth and affluence was also apparent in St. John's whose larger membership and greatly increased giving placed the Congregation in a new and challenging role in the community. New members were drawn into the Church from the large population of the city and fresh interest was aroused in every part of the life of St. John's. By 1956 it became apparent to the members that the church facilities must be enlarged. A building committee was appointed at once to analyze and recommend as needed for Sunday School, week-day groups and various church organizations. This Committee consisted of representatives of Session, Board of Managers, Ladies Aid and the Congregation, as follows:

Ladies Aid	— Mrs. W. C. Campbell, Mrs. J. E. Davies
Board of Managers	— Mr. John Fougere, Mr. S. E. Hawthorne
Session	— Mr. Tom Murray
Congregation	— Mr. J. H. Yule, Mr. J. H. Pratt

By 1962, the need for expansion became so imperative that the Board of Managers resorted to employ "The Wye Organization" to come and conduct a financial campaign for a new educational centre. This Organization consisted of a highly-skilled group who worked out and inspired the effective method of involving the entire membership of a Church by eye enthusiasm and every-member canvasses, to make it success beyond the utmost of They applied their techniques to St. John's with a success undreamed of by our members.

Replacing the Building Committee of 1961 a Construction Committee was now appointed representing all church organizations, to study building needs and recommendations. The members were:

Mrs. W. C. Campbell	Mrs. J. S. Davies	Mr. J. Cuthbertson
Mrs. R. Harper	Mr. G. Bissett	Mr. R. F. Bell
Mrs. R. A. Elder	Mr. D. S. Grant	Mr. J. Forshner
Mr. W. H. Burns	Rev. R. L. Taylor	Mr. J. H. Yule
Mr. S. E. Hawthorne		

The next step was the formation of a Canvass Committee of twelve members specialized to work with the Visits Organization. They soon drew in many of the Church members organizing them into teams to go out and contact all of the Congregation, the Committee being comprised of

T. A. Ferguson	H. R. Mitchell	George Armstrong	George Murray
R. C. Black	Gordon Stevens	Dr. W. C. Campbell	Marston Evans
T. G. Hawthorne	Dr. G. R. Grier	J. P. Vail	Rev. R. L. Taylor

Early personnel interviews resulted in the pledging of substantial sums, thus setting the whole project on an encouraging plane. As the publicity machine swung into its objective set, so the enthusiasm of the committee grew, and the final week of the campaign found the teams rushing in and out of the church school room, bringing in pledges and obtaining names of new contacts to be made. The Ladies' Aid members were on hand to serve coffee and lunch each evening. Finally, when the last memo pad had been tabled, the pledges totaled to the substantial grand of $111,000.00. This far exceeded the original objective of $85,000.00 and resulted in commitments being given by the attendees, many covering a period of 10 weeks.

Work gradually progressed to the point where a contract was awarded to Johnson Construction on March 23rd, 1964, calling to start immediately with completion by August 1, 1964. The tentative plans provided individual Sunday School rooms, combined assembly room and dining hall, stage, a large modern kitchen, nursery for small children, library, classes, cabinets and a church office.

Mrs. J. W. Morrow, who came to Metabetchouan Hall in 1926 with her parents, officiated at the turning of the sod with the assistance of the Minister on October 25, 1963 as Mrs. Morrow struggled to push the spade into the earth, her great sense of humour prompted her to "kick it, and say to it "Live!". When did you learn that art?" She recalled recall on May 8, 1964, at the ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone. Dedication of the Christian Education Centre was conducted by the Presbytery of Macaza after the morning service on Pentecost 12 Jan in the Rev. D. N. T. Kennedy Past Moderator of the General Assembly as Guest Speaker

Every member and congregation in St. John's was delighted with the spacious surroundings and comfortable of the new building from the moment it was opened for use. The Last on All that accumulated one $3,000.00 to spend on new furnishings and they proceeded to purchase a total the equipment that was needed. The old maple tables became a thing of the past, be ng replaced by fo ding banquet tables, with the melody on 6 tables were discarded for square stacking ones. Two hundred and fifty metal stacking chairs we e pu chased, as well as a entire supplies of new si vewares table linen and other equipment. This was named as y brought in and property adi ed in

Parish Building Committee, 1963.

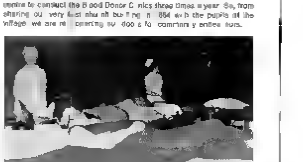
...urning, 1st Sand...Mrs. J. W. Morrow ... Rev. R. L. Taylor

South view of Church Hall

North view of Education Centre

the new pantry and cupboards. It was now possible to serve all meetings to be held at the same time in the church hall thus, with a new spirit of enthusiasm pervading the Congregation.

The new addition to St. John's was the first Educational Centre built by any of the churches in Medicine Hat and even in Southern Alberta, becoming a model to other groups planning similar extensions of their facilities. The large Auditorium with dimensions of 87' x 36' has been used for many community activities outside of the Church, including the Rotary Ice Shows, Festival Eisteddfod and youth rallies. The Red Cross makes the entire facility available to the centre to conduct the Blood Donor Clinics three times a year. So, from starting out very humbly with a Parish Hall in the basement of the village we are now entering our second century entire with



Blood Donor Clinic Days at St. John's

MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE SANCTUARY

Major repairs to the Sanctuary had been carried out by Mr. J. G. Pratt and several men of the Congregation in 1948. All of the dark Tyndall stone base tile on the outer plinths of the walls were covered with gyproc and a period was be chosen that which simulated the tones of the church tiles having the original brass railings and velour curtains. Stairways were changed and ceiling ornaments plastered with. At this point the discovery was made that the large 'wonder' brass attached to the ceiling beams in 1902, were not by means of pressed nails. These renovations remained in effect until February 1957, when extensive changes in the Sanctuary were carried out by the Valley City Furniture Company of Dundas Ontario. New pews and woodwork of light oak were installed, and new pew carpet laid in the aisles and front of the church. This being done at a

ore of $18,200.00. The organ was completely rebuilt at a cost of $14,250.00.

Rededication of the Sanctuary took place on Sept. 18, 1957 following the morning service, with E. Grant representing the Moderator of the General Assembly. The organ was dedicated following the evening service. "To the Glory of God and in memory of those members who gave their lives in the Service of the Country in the two World Wars."

NEW ENTRANCE AND MEMORIAL WINDOWS

Renovations to the new entrance of the church were carried out in 1958 at a cost of approximately $30,000.00. Service of dedication took place on Feb. 2 1960 during the visit of the Moderator of the 84th General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. James A. Nairn officiating. Further renovations were done after a period of time with the installation of beautiful stained glass Memorial Windows in the Sanctuary replacing the glass cathedral glass, that had been in use since the church was built in 1902. Further mention about the windows are listed in the appendix.

Kindergarten Nursery Bible service

Memorial Windows

Sign at the front of the Church
Plaque at the back of St. John's

MODERATOR OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Senate of Knox College in Toronto conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Rev. W. Taylor, April 30, 1901, for outstanding work with his own Congregation and Boards of General Assembly over past years. When the news was received at the Manse that the degree was to be conferred, the Congregation never learned of the reaction of the adults in the household on that occasion, but the recipient of the honor told some friends later of the Taylor children's attitude towards the news. When they were all seated at the table at mealtime, Kate (after about twenty years) of the courtier and as explained the information contained in the letter that had just arrived. They promptly wanted to know why the honor had been bestowed on him as he evidently outshone some of his activities on Church Boards etc. They digested this in silence for a few minutes, when Johnny jumped up, threw back his chair, dashed off with a great "whoop and said "Sit down, Prof" for the newly anointed Doctor of Divinity was immediately cut down to size by his own offspring. Naturally, the entire Congregation was delighted to have their Minister honored by Knox College, and was pleased to have the privilege of presenting him with the gown and hood appropriate to his title.

Within two months, further honors were bestowed upon our Minister when he was elected Moderator of the 57th General Assembly in June 1901 and once again the Session minutes reflect the feelings of Session and the Congregation with the recording of these remarks: "The members of Session are very pleased with the election of Dr. Taylor as Moderator of the General Assembly and trust that the Lord will direct, counsel and uphold him with Grace both during the year as Moderator."

The first Communion Service conducted by Dr. Taylor when he returned home as Moderator of the General Assembly was an occasion for solemn rejoicing by all of the members, who became mostly aware of the new stature of our minister and of the Congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The idea between ministers and the earliest members of St. John's were foremost in many minds, and a recognition of the time ever and priests, which had been stored away for many years, were lovingly placed on the Communion table as evidence of the long link formed between those pioneer men here and the present generation. None of the younger Elders had ever seen that first Communion set, but were so impressed by the significance of its historic values, that it has been reverently used ever since.

D. Robert[illegible]ker, B.A., B.D.
Moderator of the 87th Senate Assembly
of the
Presbyterian Church in Canada
1961 - 1962

For the next year not only the Congregation, but the family in the Manse had to learn to get along without the head of the household while he travelled across the Dominion in the years during which Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had occupied the Manse they had been drawn close to the members of St. John's in sharing the joys and responsibilities of rearing a family. Pat (Patrick) and Bob, John, Nan and Lucy became well-known in the Congregation, both through their presence at all church functions, and also through their father's occasional references from the pulpit which indicated the interest in the continual problems of parenthood. The arrival of Mr. Robert Taylor Sr., from Orillia, Ontario in 1957, completed the family at the Manse. This new personality added much to St. John's parishioners as he often tried to capture his sinciest and justifiable pride in his son's achievements in the pulpit and elsewhere, by his quaint remarks about the Minister".

By 1961, Pat Taylor was a grown-up young lady, and no one was surprised when romance entered her life. John Allison, a new graduate from Knox College, was appointed to fill the supply in St. John's pulpit while the Ministerial was absent on his annual duties, and the hospitality of the Manse was quite naturally extended to him. It became a plain case of the kind young man with a marked liking and married the host's daughter!

In June 1961, Pat and John were married in St. John's, the entire Congregation being invited guests for the happy occasion. The sides of the church had enlarged to prepare a suitable reception in the hall in full, after which the young couple left to make their home in the Manse at Kimberley, B.C. where John became the minister to the church there.

The Taylors during their many years of [illegible] work of the young people's, are conspicuous member participation in the various young people's groups. These groups usually met on Saturday and sometimes during the week for worship, discussion and recreation. The aim was to study the mean ng of Christian ty, the Church in relation to the community and the world; and from this emerged a long roste of fin e studies, discussions on current problems involving some unthinkable free activities of no need. The young people became aware of the needs of others and, a ed funds for the Seachmore T e nate School (ater called Kent College) Refugee relief Fund the Budget Fund, and also sent $10 for the work of overseas missions. In 1965 they purchased the Nelles Board and Pamphlet Racks in the Narthex which is still used today for the purpose of displaying the various Christ an pamphlets and literature.

Of the many projects undertaken by the young people one in particular is remembered which was both energetic and also an expedient method of teaching. Under the direction of Winnie she

At Whitsun they produced a set of photos in 1967 entitled 'The Story of Christmas' with a taped commentary. This was to be an authentic story of Christ's birth, told early in November and after the first snowfall. They set up shop in a barn just at the Stamperle grounds where many animals were borrowed during the winter. An artificial lake or pond was used with the exception of the camels made by Jack Barrie. The stable was arranged, animals passed into place actors carefully costumed, and all was in readiness for the first scene but something was missing — the sheep! A few could be seen out in the fields and the group tried to persuade them to participate in this sequence, but to no avail — when lo and behold there suddenly appeared Bill Elder and his sheep. A few curious animals that appeared to have talent for acting, wandered over to the set and were immediately hired, making the final authentic touch to the story. Upon completion of this project it was shown in the Collegeall in all a "Fireside" usually held following the evening service.

Many journeys were made to Lethbridge and Fort Macleod for Presbytery Rallies which provided food for thought and were an enlightening experience for those in attendance. Trips were also made to Edmonton Lake and usually became the highlight of the year. All this was made possible by the fact that the Taylor family owned a cottage there and it became a favourite meeting place for the young people. Retreats, hikes, weiner roasts and swimming were all enjoyed and during the winter months skating became a favorite sport and it was quite an adventure to climb the hills before the Ski Lift was installed, just to descend on your knees, flat on your back or on your tail. There were a number of accidents when a bone or two was broken. However these mishaps occasionally did not overshadow the fun in skating and hospitality extended by the Taylors at the cottage and the many memorable overnight spent in discussion at the fireplace.

As the years passed changes were taking place in the young people's groups. They were now becoming aware of the need for self-expression in worship and song. The trend began to appear in the early 1960's and the generation gap was becoming visible, when the Young People's Group was led to hold a Parents' Night chiefly to inform the parents of their activities. Each they were taking a closer look at our traditional services particularly the music. An example of the change is quoted from the 1964 annual records — Erica here? Erica Fait is our pianist and musicianship is to an important part of his program namely sing by. Believe it or not we like to sing and we like lively music. For this reason we use the Red Book as our Devotional Hymns which we have no doubt long ago set the book of Psalms (theology of the hymns is usually sound). here are many very tunes in the Red Book. Recently a new wrinkle was added we have been singing spirituals accompanied by a guitar. (This could do wonders with the tempo of "There's A Church in The Valley")

And so the "winds of change" became inevitable. Some experimental (very modern!) hymn tunes were introduced into our traditional services and so a new age began — of contemporary singing and services with more emphasis on youth participation.

During the many years that Dr. Taylor spent at Maclennan Hall, he developed a family that became a treasure to himself, the family and eventually to the Congregation. He became a wild-watcher. This location of the Manse on property adjoining the Saskatchewan River, with the existence of a few trees on the back lawn, created a setting for continual study of the many birds that flocked to the feeders set out for the family delight to the arrival of a new species was shared with friends, and gradually Mr. Minister developed the idea of incorporating his hobby into a series of sermonettes on birds, that he called Bird with Message for the children's sermons for several years. The results as well as the youngsters always looked forward to the moment when a big cardboard was produced from behind the pulpit exhibiting a bird, whose characteristics were cleverly applied to human behavior.

This interest led to the acquisition of a small library of books as well as a large collection of pictures of birds, to assist Dr. Taylor in continuing this method of enlisting the children in the Sunday morning services. The little sermons achieved such fame that they were even written up in the Presbyterian Record.

ASSISTANTS TO THE MINISTER

The increase in the membership of the Congregation, with the consequent expansion of all activities in St. John's led to a decision by the Board of Managers to obtain some assistance for our Minister. So, in 1955 Miss Margaret Goodeve Descones, was employed to assist the Pastor with church duties and Christian Education, as well as some duties formerly exercised by Mr. Minister. After she left in 1958, Albert Taylor was employed as a part-time secretary until September, 1960, when Miss Evelyn Mathie took over the position on a full-time basis, being with us to 1973.

Rev. John Aitken was engaged as Assistant Minister for a twelve-month period from September 1961 to August 31 1962 to serve the Congregation during Dr. Taylor's absence as Moderator of the General Assembly in Ottawa in 1962. Rev. Steven Mains was engaged as Associate to the Minister during the interim as particularly at the area of Christian Education until he tendered his resignation on June 30 1966 on accepting a Call to North Vancouver B.C.

FAREWELL

On January 29, 1967 Dr. Taylor informed the Session that he had received an invitation from a West Vancouver Congregation to

was granted leave of absence to visit them on Feb. 26, during which return during the Session that he intended to accept a Call by the Church if it was issued in his hands.

Having served the Church for 23 years and three months Dr. Taylor concluded his ministry in St. John's on June 25, 1967. The Session received his resignation of our members to him for his understanding patience, loyal and unstinting service during the years he served as our Pastor. Mrs. and Mrs. Taylor were honoured by farewell parties and gifts by St. John's groups and prior to their departure, Fifth Avenue United Church held a Sunday evening service to which the entire community was invited. At that time, their Secretary was filled with friends who gathered to pay tribute to the Christian ministry which our Minister and his wife had provided in so many years.

Mr. Ron Hawthorne Conducting the Induction Service for the New Minister

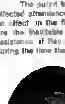
A NEW ERA

A Long Vacancy and Arrival of Mr. Smith

The Rev. L. D. Hanington of St. Andrew's Church, Lethbridge, was appointed Interim Moderator by the Presbytery of Macleod, and agreed to act his responsibilities to St. John's consistently and effectively for the next eight months. When needed, he met with the Settlement Committee acting as Moderator of Session and extending any help. The Congregation was indeed indebted to Mr. Hanington.

Our Church was fortunate in that a Student Minister from Scotland to the person of Andrew McLellan was available to serve the Congregation for July and August 1947 with supply for the remaining six months being available on a week to week basis.

The pulpit being vacant for a period of eight months not only affected attendance at the regular services of worship but also had an effect on the financial condition within the Congregation. Those are the inevitable results when a "Call" is being processed. The assistance of Rev. K. C. Cuthbertson, Synod of Alberta, during the time the pulpit was vacant, is gratefully acknowledged.



Dr. D. C. Smith

During the eight-month period when the Manse was vacant, the Board undertook extensive alterations and redecorating in the building. Mrs. Ron Heathcote assisted greatly in carrying out those plans. Over the years many other repairs and changes have taken place, usually over the heads of the congregation, causing them much inconvenience. When the major building of the Church decide to do a thing, it is sometimes carried out without consulting the Minister's family. This must have been the case about twenty years ago when [illegible] and a small open porch built on its place. Young Boy Taylor, the last one to use it, was heard to say regretfully to the neighbors "We liked the verandah but the Lawton Ad didn't."

On November 9, 1947 the Congregation voted to extend a "Call" to Dr. Donald C. Smith of Port Alberni, B.C. This Settlement Church was reported at the January 31, 1948 meeting that Presbytery had with Knox Fort Alberni now to be severed on February 15th, Dr. Smith and family

to serve approximately February 16th. They searched Medicine Hat on February 22nd with induction under the Presbytery of Calgary. The Service was held at 7:30 pm that evening with a record six held following Induction Service when our new Minister his wife and family (Wayne, Sheila, Neil and Laura) were welcomed by the Congregation.

Changing Patterns of Society and Church Life

St. John's in its 90 year history has had to face many varieties of problems and challenges as the population changed and economic conditions in the community but perhaps none of these changes have presented as great a challenge as have the events of the last decade or so.

If the past two years witnessed a remarkable growth of population and economic activity in Medicine Hat the city almost dead of a year later from 1981 to 1991 — from 12,880 to 24,484 persons) the decade of the 80's saw a general slowdown in economic expansion in the city and virtually no population growth. Although the city and district continued to reflect a high level of prosperity throughout this period the retarded population growth and particularly the loss of eligible mate numbers of young people from the city in search of jobs and higher educational opportunities gradually began to have an effect upon the membership, church attendance and other activity in St. John's (The Session reported to the Presbytery after the Call to Mr. Smith that of 465 members on the roll no less than 86 were non-residents — mostly young people attending school or recently employed in Calgary or Edmonton — and that only 337 persons could be contacted as members).

But if economic changes were having an effect on St. John's in a period the social changes in the moral habits of the people was likewise affecting church life and particularly church and church school attendance. The advent of TV in the mid '50's, the shorter work week, the almost universal ownership of motor vehicles, with the ability to travel readily to places more distant for weekends, the changed attitudes toward Sunday observance, the easy access to greenly designed summer and winter recreational facilities (especially at Elkwater) the growth in popularity of extensive winter ski days, and many other similar social trends have all contributed to the declining trends in church and church school attendances in the last 10 to 15 years.

As early as the 60's the Sunday evening gospel story services which preceded Communion Sundays were discontinued. By 1969 the Session began to discuss ways and means of changing the evening service to suit the typical decline in attendance. By 1982 only a handful of persons regularly attended these services and so during the vacancy period Session discontinued them and they were never

returned except for special occasions. Sunday services throughout the 60's saw into the 70's record a gradual decline in attendances at special services such as Good Friday Communion and Christmas Day services as well as the number participating in the Quarterly celebration of the sacraments. In the church school the average enrolment of well over 200 in the late 50's had declined to 186 in 1964 and to just over 100 in 1972.

It must be remembered, of course, that the social changes affecting the life of the Church in the past decade or more are not peculiar to St. John's. They are typical of changes affecting all the major Churches and institutions. From the time of Church Union in 1925, the Presbyterian Church in Canada had given steadily each year right up to 1954 whereupon a sharp decline set in. The great church building loans following the second world war continued until the early 60's when it almost came to a halt. Nationally, membership started by over 20,000 between 1961 and 1971 and church school enrolment from 712,157 to 67,537 during the same period. Therefore in this picture of social changes affecting the recent history of St. John's congregation it is important to realize that the challenge facing us here in our local community is the same challenge that confronts the Church of Christ everywhere in our modern secular society.

Ministry of the Saints

In an attempt to deal as effectively as possible with the challenges of the times in which we live many innovations and experiments have been carried out in recent years, some of which have been successful and some not so successful.

The Rev. [illegible] on 1972
Mrs. Smith Sheila Gail, Mr. Smith
Neil Elaine

In order to maintain the work of the Congregation, we need our large commitments to the wider work of the Church in Canada and overseas, and launch out in new directions of witness. It is necessary that all members take seriously their responsibilities as the good stewards of their financial resources. This has been carried out most thoroughly in recent years through the use of stewardship education programmes designed to involve the whole congregation in this vital aspect of support for the Church's work and witness. It is amusing to note that in St John's financial statement of 1960 it was reported that the Congregation had been unable to pay the Mission's pro rata allowance during the year and was thus $200.00 in arrears. Happily this sort of precarious financial situation is a story of the past thanks to the liberality of our members and the wise use of funds by Session and Board members.

It is with justifiable pride and satisfaction that we can say that for the past 15 years at least, St. John's has lived into the Presbyterian Churches in Alberta in giving to the wider work of the Church. This generous response to the present day, in the our 100th anniversary year, we have exceeded the largest donation in our history, $6,000, for the General Assembly's budget in addition to the ongoing yearly commitment. St. John's in 1968 accepted the full allocation of $10,394 to the National Development Fund of our Presbyterian Church. At the end of 1972, the Congregation had contributed $15,387 of this total — the largest amount per capita of any Church in our Alberta Synod. In 1972 the Congregation also donated over $600 to the new Varsity Acres Congregation in Calgary to assist them in erecting their church building.

The multiplicity of job and it can rightfully be said that the past two decades has established St. John's not only as one of the wider outreach in terms but to provide large and adequate new facilities — the new Harlan C.E. facilities, renovated sanctuary now finished in fall fashion — for congregational and community needs in recent years an attempt has been made to promote a larger share of our financial resources to projects — to the training and development of our human resources. To this end, the Session in 1968 and 1971 sent several groups of church school teachers and C.E. leaders to seminars and training events principally and during the observation of the new Christian Faith and Action curriculum. In 1971 and 1972 a of office bearers were assisted in attending two Presbytery sponsored weekend retreats for lay-leaders and managers. Most significant of all, St. John's sent an ecclesiastic delegates to the Presbyterian Congress at the University of Guelph, Ontario in June 1971. Made up of members of the Session, the young people and the elders of St. John's our delegation (Susan Dodds, Gail Fountain, Ronald Grant, Donald Grant, Eleanor Mains, Margie McGibbon, Sandra Lee and Chesley Schneider and Winnifred Wilson), joined some 600 other delegates in a thrilling

and inspiring event that truly deepened and enriched their Christian faith and experience.

Among the most notable changes in the life of St. John's in the past decade have been experiments in the area of church worship and praise designed to encourage livelier and more active participation and involvement of the Congregation. In 1958, at Dr. Taylor's suggestion, certain changes had been made by Session in the regular Sunday morning order of worship in line with recommendations from the General Assembly and reflecting the newer insights into Reformed worship. These changes were a permanent part of the new Book of Common Order issued by the Assembly in 1964. During the first months of Dr. Smith's ministry in 1966 the Session authorized the use of the "Service of Word and Sacrament" as contained in the new Book of Common Order. This revised order for the celebration of the Sacrament recovers many of the insights of early Reformed sacramental practice in the matters of congregational participation, by means of a common prayer of confession and other responsive acts of worship.

In the musical portion of worship, also, the introduction of contemporary hymns and new tunes to familiar words has taken place. Both the Senior and Junior Choirs under the direction of Mrs. E. Pedersen have done much to popularize the contemporary music among the Congregation, and they have enriched greatly in either new acts of Congregational worship where the people's participation is required. With the issuing of the revised Book of Praise in late 1972 (the first revision since 1938) the choirs are now introducing many of the fine new hymns to the Congregation in preparation for the issuing of the new books. Separate articles on the Choir, the Junior Choir, the Handbell Choir and Music by the Ladies Aid have been made possible, and add important detail to certain musical presentations as well as this organ-one duets by Mrs. Elder and Mrs. Pedersen.

As noted in the last section in reference to our youth groups there had been in some churches a strong desire on the part of the young people for more contemporary expressions of worship — not simply in the music and hymn but in the form of services designed for Contemporary. In the past few years beginning in 1968, the youth groups (ages 15-19) have presented two or three contemporary youth services each year. Using a variety of media — dialogue, drama, and musical presentation — which have given opportunity in their own expressions of Christian worship and communion with one Another, the young people have led the congregation in guitar and other instruments. In the spring of 1971 one such services was held, one using excerpts from the popular rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar and the other using Christ readings and music on the theme "Who is Jesus?" Commenting on these services in the September 8, 1971 newsletter Dr. Smith said: "From what I saw, the church membership of those who have gathered here was far richer mood reaction to these

Youth Group 1972

Some of the members with Dr Smith — Suzanne Sallows, Gerald Goode, Brennan Schleuter, David Sallows, Anne Ballantyne, Rebecca Goode, Susan Brooks.

and other activities, services presented in the past. Admittedly they are not everybody's "cup of tea" but at our May and June meetings the Session discussed at some length these services. It was our feeling that we should convey to the congregation our conviction that these various experiments in contemporary worship have the full support and blessing of the Session. They do not represent a catering to the young people but are a valid and necessary attempt to convey the gospel in new and varied terms to people — young and old — of our day. It was felt that at the Centenary, even if they reluctantly praise the familiar hymns, prayers and format of the traditional service, almost by nature and eager to enter fully into the spirit and activity of these new forms of worship on occasion. We must remember that our traditional services has evolved over many centuries and would certainly not have come to its present formal pattern were it not adequately to our taste. Each or not the case for many who are members of the Church and even for many who are members of the Church itself.

Another innovation in worship designed to stimulate congregational participation and reaction to the message of the sermon has been the practice inaugurated in 1971 — having a short service (about 45 minutes) on the first Sunday of each month, followed by a question and discussion period conducted with a coffee and fellowship hour. These events have proved to be reasonably successful, especially when the sermon topic has lent itself to a stimulating and thought provoking discussion.

During June of both 1[illegible] and 1[illegible] St. John's [illegible] many services and activities [illegible] a couple of [illegible] Pot-luck suppers followed by a concert [illegible] The [illegible] of these was highly successful but the second was [illegible] and a duo-harmonica service was not short [illegible] none [illegible] A picnic [illegible] beach events, a congregational band-[illegible] and [illegible] young people and older members, organized by Dorothy Hanley and [illegible] Church Band has also played at two or three services in the Church in recent years.

Another feature of the past [illegible] year is the [illegible] regular monthly publication of a congregational newsletter. Promoted by the Editorial Board and Secretary this newsletter appeared on a monthly basis on June 3rd 1962 by coincidence the Church anniversary of St. John's) and has been well received by the Congregation. It has proved to be an effective [illegible] communication [illegible] St. John's members and adherents, informed on [illegible] aspects of the [illegible] work of the Church both locally and world wide. While on this matter of communication and the improved [illegible] 1962 saw the installation of a public address system in the Sanctuary and in [illegible] halls. The [illegible] and [illegible] very helpful in [illegible] hearing [illegible] services.

St. John's Emanuel Korean Mission, Grace Johnson Church, 12th Avenue United Church

Orchestra at Service Marking St. John's Fifth Anniversary

In an effort to improve the continuity of attendance in the Church School a revised discussion was introduced in October 1976 whereby boys and girls in grades 1 to 9 (ages 5 - 14) attend sessions once a month on Sunday afternoons rather than on a weekly basis on Sunday mornings. Following the general format of a Vacation Church School, with recreational periods interspersed between teaching sessions, the children begin with lunch together followed by the morning service and concludes at 4.30. This new Church School format has been extremely successful, especially in ensuring continuity of attendance in a congregation where many family members (children are joined from the city at least one or two Sundays a month. This unique combination of style in its third year and its success has received interest in ministry from numerous sources across our Church in Canada.

To conclude the modern period, mention should be made of one very significant recent change which took place in the life and government of the Presbyterian Church whereby women, for the first time, were made eligible for ordination to the ministry and eldership by action of the General Assembly in 1966. This long overdue change took place which now makes it possible for women equally with men to have a share in governing and conduct existing processes of the Church. Since 1966, women have had access as Ministers and Elders to all courts of the Church — Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly — two which they had previously been triple. Recently was made in St. John's in 1969 when ces first two women elders were elected to the Sessions in the persons of Margaret Menzies and Lucie Fraser (Mrs. G.E. — Hamilton and Mildred Wise provided to be among our most competent and diligent elders.

Conclusion

This 90 year history of St. John's now comes to a close. Its pages have recorded the successes and failures, the strengths and weaknesses, the joys and the heartaches of many hundreds of men and women and child on who have ministered and served the cause of Christ in and through this Congregation. The is a story of courage and faith — the struggle of a handful of members with meagre means and to establish a Presbyterian witness in a fast growing community. Its faith and dedication of a Congregation of only 79 members in building in 1906 has the Sanctuary seating 450 in a community of only 2[illegible] reveals the hardships that seem endured through both long and tragic years. The sad era of mass unemployment and dire hardships of the depress on years the commitment and sacrifice required to meet the bare necessities and recreational facilities which serve us so well today.

From those pioneers and "fathers" in the faith we of St. John's today have received a priority heritage. May we be worthy of their labours and their trust as we move to meet the challenges and opportunities of his time in which God has set us.

DONALD C. SMITH.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr. Edward McKenzie
Chairman of Anniversary Celebration Committee

Church Service, June 3, 1973, 11 a.m.
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Guest Preacher: Dr. R. L. Taylor
Dr. B. C. Smith, Minister
Choir led by Mrs. R. E. Pedersen
Service broadcast and recorded, courtesy of Radio Station CHAT

1:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon, Medicine Hat College
2:30 p.m. Program in Medicine Hat College Theatre

MINISTERS WHO SERVED ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
1865 - 1973
EARLY SUPPLY MINISTERS

Name	Arrived	Left
Rev Angus Robertson Missionary	June 1, 1865	June 4, 1865
Mr. Harold Anderson, B.A.	April 28, 1866	October 1866
Rev Thomas Davidson, M.A.	November 1866	Aug 26, 1868

REGULAR MINISTERS

Rev James Harold, B.A., B.D.	November 1868	March 1869 died
Rev Angus J. McLeod, B.A.	May 1869	March 1881
Rev Charles Stephen, B.A. B.D.	April 1881	Sept. 30, 1891
Rev J. A. Jaffary	October 1891	May 18, 1896
Rev James Morrow M.A., L.L.B.	June 7, 1896	June 20, 1911
Rev. Thomas Wilson	Oct. 11, 1911	January 1916
Rev. Thomas McConnell, B.A.	Feb. 4, 1916	Nov 1927
Rev M. Stewart Blackburn	March 14, 1928	September 1932
Rev W. G. Hollingworth, B.A.	Jan. 31, 1933	June 1942
Rev. Wilfred Butcher, B.A.	June 1942	Dec. 31, 1944
Rev Robt. L. Taylor, B.A., B.D.	June 1945	June 28, 1957
Dr. D. G. Smith, B.A., B.D., Th.D.	Feb. 25, 1958	

Note: Names are listed as of the time those ministers served St. John's

ELDERS OF ST. JOHNS CHURCH

Date of Election	Name	Date of Election	Name
1865	Wm. Cowan, J. Hargrave, Thos. Tweed, Wm. McDeid	1928	W. Culbertson, Allan Sutter
1881	John Young	1932	Dr. G. G. Elder, F. Forde
1887	David Arthur, W. A. Hay		R. Gilmour, Wm. Richmond
	Geo. Mitchell	1935	J. Dobson, W. Gordon, Jr.
1889	James Elliott, C. Pratt		G. Mackrell
1893	J. T. Bell, Wm. Richmond	1939	J. Cecile, L. Stevens
	R. Bennett, H. H. Duggan,		A. Stanton, R. A. Cowan
	Dr. W. McDonald, R. C. Porter		N. Wallace, McLorne Lewis
	G. Robertson	1946	A. Bateman, M. Cortland,
1898	J. A. Cameron, S. W. Thomas		B. Mc King, H. S. Martin,
	W. Hay, J. F. Reynolds		W. Mc Kay, J. Mc Kenzie
1900	T. Northcott, J. Richardson,	1948	Dr. Harrison T. Montgomery
	M. Bennett, Wm. Crawford		Carey Moon, G. Nelson
	Jas. Mitchell	1952	W. S. Hawthorne, J. McKenzie,
1905	A. W. Bell, F. Ferguson,		Dr. E. J. Brien, Dr. V. W. Storey
	[illegible]	1955	Mr. Fairlton, F. Macpherson,
	E. C. Bell, J. Garland,		Wm. Mackenzie, Ed Newton,
	W. Miller		Frank Pe w, Stan Yon
1908	R. Cable, W. Dawson,	1960	Dr. A. Barton, G. Hewitt,
	W. Hamilton, Jas. Robertson,		Dr. J. Hutchinson, L. Jamieson,
	Dr. J. G. Hargrave, A. J. Nex		C. Schneider, S. Tuck
1911	Dr. D. Thomson, Thos. Murray	1969	Bec. Cecile, *Wm. C. Deeton,
	Hugh Sowden, Geo Cable		J. Hammond, *Alf. Lloyd
	Geo. Symons		G. Howe, *W. J. Sibbald,
1914	Records are missing from		Mrs. Fred Fisher
	1920 to 1928	1973	D. J. Bacon, *D. B. Shaw
24	J. L. Wilson, Herb Lockhy		*R. H. Stinson, *R. Van-
	Dan McLeod, J. McNeil		Wyngaarden

St. JOHN'S CLERKS OF SESSION
SIX ONLY IN 87 YEARS

William Cowper
1851 - 1876

Andrew [illegible]
1876 - [illegible]

James [illegible]land
1916 - 1927

[illegible]
[illegible] - 50

A. [illegible] G. [illegible]
1901 - 1914

Donald Grant
1914-
The present Clerk of Session

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH

1844 1965

CHAIRMEN	SECRETARY-TREASURERS
Mr. Thos Kershaw	M. Eva Archfield
Mr. Thos Thorpe (5 years)	M. G. W. McCuaig (3 years)
Mr J. Horner	M. H. Sapp (2 years)
Mr. Wm Fleming	Mr J. Hargrave 1 7 years
Rev. J. W. Morrice	
Mr. H. Swallow	
M. Henry Stewart	

Managers Minute Books are missing mid March 908 October 911, 1910 1923

J. T. Bell	T. H. Hand (2 years)
E. A. Bell	J. A. Bell (7 years)
Dr. Oliver Boyd	P. D. Stone
Mr John Hill (5 years)	T. A. Abrahead
M. J. E. Curran	J. C. Porter
Mr. J. W. Fletcher	Mr Tate Elliott 909 — 945
Col. J. M. Hall	
Mr. Roy Hutcher	
Mr Thos Mundy	
Mr. J. A. Bell	

Managers' Minute Books are missing from 1858 to 1945

945	M. J. W. McLaine 2 years
945-48	Dr. O. E. Kline 3 years
948-57	M. Marion Bates 7 years.
958-59	J. H. Hunt
960	Dr. J. L. Wyatt
961-62	Mr John Fotheringham 2 years
963-65	M. Bernice Grant 3 years
966-68	M. Marion Bates 3 years
969-	Harold Bishop 3 years

Members believed to have served as Chairmen during 906 — 943.

J. C. Beveridge	W. L. Codlington
H. G. Bongard	Thos. J. Taylor

The Historical Committee of Men desires tendering to St. John's members whose names may have been omitted in this book due to lack of records.

Officers of St. John's for many years

Mr Samuel Short
1909 - 945

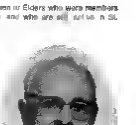
Mr. W. Bongard
Chairman
951 — 957

Mr A. Bentley
960 - 972

TRIBUTE TO TWO SENIOR ELDERS

We wish to pay tribute to two men of Elders who were members in our Congregation many years ago and who are still active in St. John's.

McLaren Ewart



John Cuthbertson

McLaren Ewart is a grandson of our first resident minister Rev. James Herald. He was born and raised in Medicine Hat joining St. John's in 1908 before going on Queen's University studying mathematics in Moose Jaw Sask. he became an Elder in the church there. Upon returning to Medicine Hat in 1956, he was elected to the session where he has served for many years. In 1968, Mr. Cuthbertson was elected as an Elder at St. John's and quit serving for health reasons but was persuaded to continue because of the need for his wisdom and counsel in a church committee.

John Cuthbertson came to Calgary from Scotland, then to Medicine Hat where he joined our church in 1913. Following service during World War I, he returned to Canada, and spent his life in the banking profession. While living in Red Deer he was elected to eldership there in 1941. He and his wife moved to Medicine Hat which has been their permanent home for many years. In 1948, Mr. Cuthbertson was elected as an Elder at St. John's and quit serving for health reasons but was persuaded to continue because of the need for his wisdom and counsel in a church committee.

HISTORY OF HILLSIDE CEMETERY MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA

A study of the minutes of the Board of Managers of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat reveals the little-known fact that there is no Church on the final acreage and owned the 40 acres of land which later became known as Hillside Cemetery. This acreage became the nucleus of the present large area eventually owned by the City of Medicine Hat. Our Church itself has to the credit no acres until 1907 and then a portion of it until 1911.

The story of this property began in 1888, when the lady of Hon. Cecil E. S. Hardy (we, age feel years, nine months, was buried at a spot on the prairie about two miles south-west of the hamlet and near the end to Fort MacLeod. There must have been a verbal agreement with some officials in the then much disorganized affairs for such a decisive action to be taken. It was not until November 1888, that I was stated in his Behalf in names that a government grant of 40 acres (one quarter) be obtained in subdivision 9 of section 25, in township 12 range 6 west of the 4th meridian in the provincial land of Assiniboia in the North-West Territories. Mr. William Columbia and Mr. Herald were again cited to secure the land, so on Jan 30, they reported that the Dominion Lands Commissioner had written showing a strong possibility of granting for the purpose Mr. Ramsay. The matter was pursued, and finally on Dec. 2, 1892 the deed was issued the said Peking a gift to the Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat from the Dominion Government

It was the role of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that close to one-sixty of a congregation met it as it left, to be held by the Church and Manse Building Fund, so the deed was issued to the Board of Management of the Church and Manse Building Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for Medicine and the North-West Medicine Hat Assiniboia

On April 12, 1893 the minister Rev. Mr. Stephen, and Mr. Fraser reported to the Board that they had visited the Cemetery at which Peters had taken place since 1888. They found and located the boundaries of the land and Mr. McTavish offered to stake it out A few years passed before they decided to have the place by fenced owing to difficulties in having materials. The fence was to be made of 6 x 1 boards, 4 ft high painted with a space between the 2 boss tree ft wide. A sketch made by Mr. McG. with was considered satisfactory and he was notified to make a plan of same Mr. McGavish was hired to build the fence and at the Board meeting on Aug. 7 1894 it was agreed that Mr. Finlay furnish the timber Mr. the fence until Perfect arrangements could be made on that. 3 to 4 approaches were intended showing the cost of the timber as being $ 48.24, while the labor of Mr. Mackrell and Mr. McG. ith amounted to $92.50.

Mr. Connors moved, he seconded, and it was decided that this be one of the following: 4 x 7 @ £2.5s; 5 x 8 @ £3.0s; 6 x 10 @ £3.10s. Mr. James Hill's grave was enclosed. Committee of the Friends of the Cemetery being either not to purchase the necessary books, cost later reported as £13.0s.

8 February 1886, it was decided to place a notice in the Hawke's Bay Herald, stating that lots in Hastings Public Cemetery are open for inspection and sale. Mr. Tweed suggested that a second copy of the survey be made and the original kept in a safe place in case the first document be lost. The Methodist Church have lots in the Cemetery in block 10 be at the same price as used by others.

By October 1886 the overhanging branches carried by Mr. John Lowe were cut when the Board made a motion that all accounts owing against the Cemetery be collected until a sum of money borrowed to pay them off. The situation arose because all papers and policies were but in the Cemetery and no other person could have assumed the expense of the lots.

In November 1887 Mr. Hargreaves resigned as Custodian, and Mr. Crossley was elected in his place. At the annual meeting of the Church in January 1888 the Cemetery report showed a debit of £746.0d. However in April the Board of the Harbour, levelled the roads on hand on the grounds and laid out new roads. The church received five acres of land for the Cemetery until 1906 when it was Congregational meeting. It was suggested that the Cemetery be put in different shape and that trees be planted. So on May 23, a Committee was appointed to look after this. An attempt was made to have a caretaker but at the meeting next year the Committee reported that it was difficult to get anyone. However the property had been fenced and many lots surveyed.

A new Cemetery Committee was appointed in April 1887 the Members being Messrs. Mr. Hall, Stewart, Miles and Derbyshire with Mr. Miles to look after the books. This Committee met and decided to arrange a meeting with the City Council Committee in the Railway Hall to guarantee the amount of money required to finish off fencing, improvements to the Cemetery grounds. This Committee went to give a grant to the Presbyterian Church the proceeds to be used for a caretaker's salary and other improvements. They also asked the Citizens Committee and the Hospital Board to go with them to City Council regarding expenses of burying paupers. Again only the finance responsibilities remain by the Church was finally completely attended by the people of the town, because the sum of £600.0s was each portioned to the Committee of the Cemetery part of the being to next year to him. A house was built in the property and a well dug. This being the first time that water was available. Also, graves cut in the walks by in subsequent years moved in lots.

By April 16, 1907, there were 233 graves in Hillside Cemetery. The City wanted some of our land to put a road through, so they acquired 38 acres of the 48 owned by us. When the road was finally constructed, it removed only 2 acres, on which we continued to pay taxes until 1914.

St. John's Board of Managers decided at a meeting on April 28, 1907, that it was time to obtain the deed for the Cemetery property from the Church & Manse Fund in Winnipeg, and get it registered in the name of a Board of Trustees for St. John's. So, on June 20, 1907, a Congregational Meeting was called at which time the Members of this Cemetery Board were elected: namely Frederick Collins, William Finlay Jas. J. Mills, A. P. Burns, Henry Stewart and James Ferguson. The transfer was received on March 12, 1908, with the names listed above on the title: the deed was deposited in the bank.

Minute books of the Board of Managers are lacking after 1908 for some time, but the records of City Hall show that St. John's continued to pay taxes on 19.4 acres of the Cemetery property until March 31, 1914, At that time it was sold over to the City, thus ending a period of responsibility and worry suffered by the men of St. John's Church for 28 years.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Ladies' Aid of St. John's

The Minute Books of the Ladies' Aid are almost complete, from 1911 up to the present time, and it is with pride that we present a record of their accomplishments. They had been organized for 29 years prior to 1911, but we can at least learn their activities during that early period.

A few statistics will give the reader an idea of their larger achievements since then:

From 1911 to 1972 inclusive, the Ladies' Aid raised	$77 542.88.
They spent this in every field of church work:	
Repairs and re-decorating of the church	$ 3 565.67
repairs, re-decorating and assessment at manse	1,422.00
Equipment for church kitchen	5, 57.00
Cash assistance to Bd. of Managers	
Re: St. John's Budget 7,632.00	
For brick manse in 1913 2,552.00	
For General Assembly Budget 2,089.00	13,278.00
Small addition in church basement 1941	3,167.00
Furnishings and equipment for congregation	5,679.00
Donations to evangelists of manse	9,422.00
	$47 980.00

One of the war set constructions given was towards the brick Manse when, months a gave $1,400 at the time the building was erected. As the Manse a friend very often in finance the mortgage payments in 1920 and again in 1924 they asked the ladies to take over complete responsibility for the Manse by they refused. However they did pay add small sums, totalling £ 552.00 town of the mortgage and taxes, and the property was cleared of debt about 1926.

Our church members were such shy not afraid to assume financial responsibility, because, long has to the Manse debt was paid the Manse it decided to install a pipe organ in the Sanctuary. This had been talked of for some years, and finally in 1913, a Casavant organ was installed. the Ladies' Aid donated $600.00 toward it.

Some women's work has always included household duties and unmarried that has been one of the main spheres of interest of the Ladies Aid, a note to mention From the time of the erection of the brick church in 1902, it can be safely stated that it is to say has provided most of the equipment in our church. The a work for keeping problems for a good many years in the Sanctuary but the gasoline from the big boiler warm at the front of he has long, long a question-tained re-decorating as in 1922, the Ladies Aid had the honor by Mrs Cantrell a of a sum of $732.00. Again although they paid M. Kennedy $600.00 for and a work. The Board of Managers they always heed must a generous of all the things done by the women as mentioned a full account of the annual meeting of Jan. 17, 1925. At that time Mr Jack Bell, the Church Secretary reported that although times were always the Ladies Aid organization had raised $600.00, some t their disbursement a no end to a handsome donation of $100.00 to the Manage a towards he heating which was much he but the usual attitude of this con-c ed organization.

Assistance in keeping up the Manse was given many times over the years, including re-decorating and attention to he grounds. The kitchen was plaster a her re-ha t about three times, but as furnishings were susp ble to this thing until he 40's, when, although electrical equipment was scarce, the ladies bought a refrigerator in 1944. During he years since hall time, they have generally assumed responsibility for supplying linens, towels, dryer, dishwasher, vacuum cl ners and in 1956, wall-to-wall carpet for the entire ma l l of the new and upper hall.

Small obligations assumed over the years were paid faithfully for a long time, some of these being

Payment of $24.00 per year for 40 years towards the Traveller's Aid Society work of meeting passenger trains.

Payment of quarterly gratuity to Mr Cartlidge for 33 years, — $2,000.00 for janitorial services

Support of a Home Missionary in 1914	$ 250.00
Chinese Relief Fund for famine relief in 1921	$ 200.00
Donations to all roads to Women's Missionary Society and Call to 1922 to 1972	$ 400.00
Camp Kennawin Sylvan Lake 1957 – 658	$ 250.00
Gowns Mortar Board and Surplices for all Choir 1968 – 1969	$ 978.00
Cash donations to Choir for music 1965 – 1968	$ 575.00
Presbyterian Training School in Medicine Hat 1951	$ 325.00
The new Ewart College Toronto 1961	$ 400.00
Gift to Shaughnessy for Peace rooms for 1965	$ 200.00
Gift to the Board of Managers for Vanity Acres Church 1972	$ 150.00

From the earliest records available we know that the Ladies' Aid has considered that its first duty was one of their most important duties to Christian Stewardship, that it has been carried out faithfully for over 80 years. Recently, the building had to be re-decorated before the opening of several Nursing Homes and two Hospitals.

Mrs Lorne Lashaw

President Ladies Aid 1968 and Only-ever Member

This is now under the supervision of a Co-ordinator and Key-Women, with all of the ladies' groups participating. Events have always been sent to family members of St. John's this having been done by the late Mrs. John Bell until 1960 and then supervised by Mrs. Myrl Smith for the past 20 years. The Circles remember their own sick members and the Ladies Aid gives to flowers for all shut-ins at Christmas time. In 1972 the members delivered the flowers personally before Christmas.

Some of the methods of raising money are listed here

1883 A tea as social.
1906 An ice-cream social in the Park.
1910 Concert and Tea at the home of Mrs. Smith.
1911 to 1972 Christmas Bazaar every year
1911 Welsh Choir Concert. Several Chain Teas
1914 Concert by Mr. and Mrs. Duggan of the Saxes
1915 Concert by Mrs. W. B. Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Duggan
1921 Rummage Sales became an annual event
1926 A play "The Old Maid's Convention."
1926 Thanksgiving supper given for many years.
1928 Recital by Mrs. Blackstock.
1932 A play given twice, directed Mrs. Mc y Currie.

1933 A play w n be ns by Mi s Cu en and Mr. Si anchard
1938 Recital by Mrs. G. G. Elder
1944 Lan ce catered many meals for the summer to the Salvation Ar my Citadel Luncheon, (after the Assin ba Hote on Third Street burned down)
1948 Ceremo ni H gh School B n quation Dinner
1954 Annual Strawberry Tea s held every yea since that time Cook Books were printed and sold by eave s groups, over the years.

The strength of the Ladies' Aid s directly attributed to the Circles organ zed in mm 1918 when the President suggested that the members d v de into groups and each Circle meet and work separately

Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne
element of St. John's
Ch 1972

This idea was immediately accepted and at the end of 1921 the Circles joined n $655.00, to the year 1974 some of these Groups began to ve their own Annual Spring Tea usually a members' homes and these were quite be high ghts o the year In each Circle Tea by the Ladies A C were dropped until about 1956 when tea rooms spring Tea was organized in the Chu ch Hall by all of the Circles, and he emains. Teas were 2 sessions, thus allow ng a cye s and several pe ople to make original menus In recent years the Ladies' Aid has become an Executive fo the Circle Members who turn in all the money with th ir dues distributed as the Members d rect. The membership and interest in both the Circles and the Ladies Aid have dw ndled alarmingly in recent years, as more and more younger women enter the business world and do not have the time to give to the work of the women's organizations n St. John s

The reader may well wonder how a group of women could possibly accomplish so much during the history of the Church, but we can only state that it has been carried out by women's personnel and of devoted ladies who gave freely of their talents and time n the past 90 years.

In recognit on of the services rendered to St. John's by our Ladies' Aid we hereby s the names of the Presidents, as far back as the records permit:

1921	Mrs. J. H. Spencer	1949	Mrs. T. Mcmeen
1921-1922	Miss A. Engel	1950	Mrs. W. Bowers
1923-1925	Mrs. Ewart Mahlow	1951	Mrs. W. G. Campbell
1926-1931	Mrs. J. W. Van Ben	1952	Mrs. A. Marshall
1932	Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne	1953	Mrs. Ben Latimer

903-1906	Mrs. Alma McDonald
906-1908	Mrs. Nicholson
	Secretary Pro-tem
1908	Mrs. Fred Armour
1908-1909	Mrs. J. A. Hill
1909-1911	Mrs. J. A. Hill and Centre
1912	Mrs. Barrie
1912-1914	Mrs. Oliver Richardson
1914	Mrs. John Hill
1914-1917	Mrs. Ernest King
1917-1918	Mrs. C. A. Macdonald
1918	Mrs. Harry Lanctôt
1918	Mrs. Barrie Cook
1919	Mrs. Herbert Stevens
1919	Mrs. Eric Anstey
1919	Mrs. Tom Taylor
1919-1920	Mrs. A. M. Ip
1920	Mrs. Wm. Pattle
1920	Mrs. J. Hagarty
1921	Mrs. J. Fitzgerald
1921-1922	Mrs. J. E. (Inez) Taylor
1922	Mrs. Lea White
1922	Mr. A. Knowles
1923	Mrs. L. L. White
1923	Mrs. Ernest Lewis
1923	Mrs. F. T. Lunn
1924	Mrs. Harold Triest
1924	Mrs. Allan Smith
1924	Mrs. Jack Stevens
1924-1925	Mrs. Tim Marshall
1925	Mrs. Ambrose Reeley
1925	Mrs. R. H. (Dawn) Mitchell
1925	Mrs. Tom Rogers
1925	Mrs. Tom Reeley
1925-1926	Mrs. R. F. McKenzie
1926	Mrs. W. Bradley

THE CIRCLES OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The Last ex. Aet minutes of March 1921 report that the Circles had been organized. There must have been seven groups, but that is because are listed only the names of the Convenors being a sen, as follows:-

Mrs. J. C. Sheppard	Mrs. Robert Rutherford
Mrs. F. Ferguson	Mrs. Turner
Mrs. Prevost	
Mrs. A. C. Reynolds	
Mrs. B. C. Becher	

St. John's Hill Circle

Mrs. Goode

Mrs. Kent

The Hill Circle was organized in the early 1920's as Mrs. J. Fitzgerald remembers attending soon after she was married in 1922. The Circle we kept up th. Last ex. A ll st less and learners to help out financially. For a few years they held their own sprting teas, as th Mrs. Tom Graham and Mrs. Barney Cockeat g ving their homes fo three events. One spring, the tea was held at the High School. Dormitory when Mrs. A. B. Faulkner was Housemother. Many girls assisted the members in catering for two or three weddings. One year when Mrs. Herbert Stevens was the Convenor the Circle made

sit per on for the Ladies' Aid. The membership has dropped from forty to an average of eight ladies, with Mrs. Sam Orr the acting as Convener for the past twelve years

Members in Recent Years

Mrs. Rutter	Mrs. V. Marriott	Mrs. A. Robey	Mrs. D. R. Kerr
Mrs. J. MacArthu	Mrs. Todd	Mrs. E. Gus	Mrs. Parker
Mrs. Kerstetter	Mrs. Bethel	Mrs. W. Mitchell	Mrs. T. Montgomerie
Mrs. A. D. Faulkon	Mrs. Elrod	Miss Berry	Mrs. M. Richardson
Mrs. S. Brown	Mrs. E. Fields	Mrs. M. Martin	Mrs. J. Hagerty
Mrs. F. Neale	Mrs. R. Morrison	Mrs. A. Mckeown	Mrs. M. Bly ke

Northside Circle

There are no records of this circle prio to 1957 but we think that the circle was formed some time around 1956 In the early days the ladies held home teas to raise money They also at times were given home knit articles. At one time they put on a play called Mary Reform" and realized a consida ble sum of money from this. As the years went by the ladies helped with bazaars, dinners the sold fancy work, hand knit soc ks, mitts and novelties. They also have several rummage sales to raise money

Some of the things they have purchased fr the church have been:

amp and table for the parlor	— 1957
2 dining chairs for the parlor	— 1958
hostess cart for the kitchen	— 1961
LV trays for the parlor	— 1963

various small art cles like using hand-embroidered tea towels, for the kitchen

They started a Nanny system in 1964 the idea being to get as many names of women in the circle, (men too if they wanted to contribute) embroidered on the apron. There were 7 machine or people to h and the charge was 35c pe name. There were 307 names on it when it was completed and 2 yrs a when it was presented to Mrs. R. L. Taylor at our Xmas party in 1965

Our meetings a open with a short devot on and we have had an average of 14 16 women over the years.

Members of Northside Circle

Mrs. Mitchell	Mrs. M. P. Hartley	Mrs. H. Stubbs	Mrs. E. Jackson
Mrs. J. Dillon	Mrs. A. Fraser	Mrs. J. Yarmouth	Mrs. F. Bradley
Mrs. Jeffersons	Mrs. M. Fraser	Mrs. A. Campbell	Mrs. R. Parker
Mrs. Kelly	Mrs. C. Philp	Mrs. Bray	Mrs. M. Berridge
Mrs. Porter	Mrs. M. Laing	Mrs. Wells	Mrs. H. Stone
Mrs. Roche	Mrs. Howard	Mrs. Neal	Mrs. G. Taylor
Mrs. Wesley Mre	Mrs. M. Taylor	Mrs. Stanley	Mrs. M. Steele
Mrs. Hallet	Mrs. J. Taylor	Mrs. Poole	
Mrs. Mackrell	Mrs. M. Smith	Mrs. Baker	
Mrs. M. Rose	Mrs. Simms Miller	Mrs. Clark	
Mrs. A. Nicholls	Mrs. Hyde	Mrs. Pickles	

Northside Circle

Back Row: left to right: Ethel Jackson, Mahon Back, Minnie Bowie, Betty Slater Maudie Partridge, Bertie Philp.

Front Row: left to right: Jane Sparks, Alice Middleton, Martha O'Reilley, Jean Peters, Rose Parker.

The Thursday Club

A 1948 a large group of energetic young married women was organized by Mrs. Gordon Sissons for the purpose of providing a few special amenities for the entire Congregation. The first project was

Mrs. Gordon (Jean) Sissons
Dedicated Friend and Worker

the refurbishing of heating pads in the Sanctuary of members who needed them. Then they bought bedroom chairs for the parlor, this comfort being enjoyed by groups meeting here ever since.

Perhaps the most helpful undertaking was the furnishing of the nursery for babies and tiny tots. The boyfriends were called in to assist in this. Jim Pruitt took on the mission so that the babysitters could listen to the sermon. Jack Sarris and Don Lebeck in the flooring and Amy Hang saw made the dividers. Cribs and toys were donated by all of the members.

Money for the various projects was raised by the annual Strawberry Tea held in the spring, this being a social as well as finally the entire Lenten Aid period in which this event. Recently the

membership of the Club has diminished greatly but the members still meet and the present project a knitting afghans for our shut-in members whom they visit regularly

"Nursery Tots" at St. John's

The Third Street Circle

Mrs. W. G. Campbell

The Circle was organized about 1901 when Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne was the president of the Ladies Aid. The group has worked consistently for over fifty years, early members being Mrs. Symons, Mrs. J. E. (Frances) Davies, Mrs. Harold (Lou) Patten, Jessie Cousins Elliott, Mrs. W. C. Campbell, Mrs. Lyle Wyatt, Dorothy Davies Grant, Lydia Chute, Marjorie Vail, Mary Stone, Myra Wright

The original money-raising project carried out by these ladies was a "Pie sale at Hamels" when several dwellings in the city were opened for inspection. Miss Hawthorne used her talents many times in carrying out floorpat ve themes for the dinners, while Emma Campbell was the organization and planning of the Circle for many years.

Members of the Third Annual Circle

Anna Armstrong	Verna Campbell	Grace Kissara
Pearl Dr Harrison	Nina Dahlke	Ella Garton
Frank Deering	Sonia Dawson	Ella Hawthorne
Nicola Hanna	Barbara Dr Harrison	Mrs Harold Hunkel
Helen Marshall	Jessie M Irvine	Mae Mahon
Ethel Meighan	Lois Patten	Ellen Sutherland
Anne Spivey	Dorothy Spinelli	Bertha Telford
Jean Williamson	Myra Wrigh	

Inactive Members — Edith Sandy and Elwyn Simons

ST JOHN'S CHOIR

How can a small History Book pay tribute to the Members of a Choir who gave so freely of their time for Sunday Service, weekday practices, and for all the special occasions as needed? St John's has always been blessed with dedicated choir members who have used their talents freely to enrich the services and lead the Congregation in praise.

We know from the records that a book that our first church was lost in 1884 after the 40 choirs and 50 hymn books were removed from Witness, as the way of equipment. The fact that an organ was purchased with net receipts but we have no details proof that one was received from into mention that name in high recently. Apparently Lucy Wilson Bailey was the organist from 1884 to 1885. When she left Medicine Hat, the church gave her a silver tea receptacle in thanking that it was presented to her for his services as the first Organist 1884 - 1885. Her grandsons, B. L. Canfield, of Banff & Hamilton Mich pas visited our church recently giving us this interesting piece of history. As to the point of the presentation of the instrument, in March 1885 her Sunday School donated $ 3.50 toward the organ.

We must also have had a choir, as was there 16 Hymn-lized Hymnals, some the name of one of those choir members was Mrs. Frank M Inhell. She was presented with a Bible as the names on of her marriage in the church on June 1899 that bought the best wedding of a member in our church.

In July 1900, Mrs. Ewart retired as Organist and the Managers were very grateful in accepting his services with the presentation of a gift the value in his $50.00 as Blank was then organized as Organist, with a salary of $ 30 per Sunday. After the brick church was built in 1907, we learn that a boy was employed to pump the organ at $4.00 per month. In being increased to $24 to $6.50 per month. Two of those organ boys are still living here today — McLaren Ewart, who is a retired Editor of the Church, and Carl Hargrave of Redcliff

youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hargrave, ondine. Members of the Choir ch n 1883. Cast remembers a very embarrassing incident a ontribution with his mates when he tells that as he was pump ng the organ one Sunday morn ng the Comp ngation was startled by a loud bang from the organ. McLaren, real ting what had gone wrong, rushed up to his assistance and found that the bellows had become unfastened from he frame of the instrument on one side. In causing the disturbance The two boys soon repaired the damage and the s ng ng proceeded

A former member of our choir who ach ieved renown in musical circles throughout North America, is M. Reg nald Stewart, who sang in St. John's Choir as a young man, when his father was the Organist here for some 41 months from 18 d to 1919. Both Mr. Stewart and Reg nald became members of St. John's, and gave of the r musical talents to the Congregation. Reginald went on to become Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and until ater of the Philade phia Symphony Orchestra

The little organ must have been used for a long time bu in 1915, a "Hey" organ was put into the church by the ministering congregating f rst the Choir was still here it, and even the Sunday School Teachers didn t want t so the owners were ordered to remove t. A p ano was purchased and used for a time, and then finally in 1918, a Casavant pipe organ was made of and it still stands having been rebuilt n 1958. The add tion of a Hammond piano in the Sanctuary a 1970 purchased by the Ladies Aid, has g ven variety to the type of mus c presented and a need to approximate the different choice and m nergan-piano duets.

The 50s years, ou Choi achieved a fine reputation, since when they entered the Provincial Music Festival a y ars after 1945 they were winners of the ive award. However they were routinely

M ss G l C der

beat with a d re emergency in 1956, when the Organist Miss McKay decided sh l e go with them to Edmonton M Pullen asked Mrs. E. Elder an accomp nied musicians and a newcome to our congregation to help out fly a mutually ng the Choi She consented and St. John s Choi won the Choir Shield for the second time. The action on he part of Mrs E le s hp col of her p ano ately throughout the years n coming to the assistance of our Choi s ple ans by giving so freely of he musical tal ents to assist in worship services id

St John's in 1967 when Miss Zwicker left, Mrs. E. Fisher conducted the music for several months, persuading the Choir Members to enter the Rotary Festival. Mrs. Aveline Tanner Lewis used her talents first in the choir as they won the Medicine Hat Brick & Tile Shield as the Rotary Festival.

Every year the choir has sanctioned the services at Christmas, Easter and the Anniversaries, with Cantatas, Anthems and special music often with guest soloists. They have also at the right time relished a wiener roast and weiner dinner. Each year the choir has responded to the call for funds for the purchase of music for their use. In the matter of choir gowns our choir must have been up to date with proper gowns for many years, but there is no record of first purchases. However, in 1925, when the Ladies Aid bought the new gowns, it is recorded that the old gowns were repaired and the green vest hats arranged. Over the years the Aid has replaced and the surplice as needed. Then in 1960 the Board of Manage s purchased the beautiful blue gowns presently in use.

A Junior Choir was first organized in 1938 by Mrs. Newell, and the choir have added great pleasure to the services, especially at Christmas and Easter. The time and devotion given by our Choir Leaders and the assistants in doing so children's Choir Competition and active participation in our services of praise reflects a commendable to the Church in honesty and life. At the time of writing we have both an Inter mediate and a Junior Choir with about 30 children taking part every Sunday in the worship service.

A very long and detail ed history of our choir from 1925 on to the present time has been compiled by Dorothy Hartley who is herself a valued member and one of the assistants with the Junior Choir. All agencies must remember each year with membership and officers has been taken in this line. In many also we would like to print a great deal of the interesting information but space does not permit However we want to end this sketch with the names of the present choir members in 1972.

Organist and choir Directo — Mabel Pedersen

Agnes Bellamy	Joyce Hargett	Ann Van-Der-Kooden
Bev Gerrish	Alice Anne Hawthorne	Linda Whitehead
Eva Hare	Margaret Hare	Jim Hare
Dorothy Burton	Mabel Matthews	Ed. McKenzie
Barbara Hales	Margaret Smith	Jacque Pierre
Mabel Flint	Dorothy Hartley	Jack Blasiak

ORGANISTS AND CHOIR LEADERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 1684 1972

1684 - 85	Lucy Wilson Bailey
1685	Mrs. Whitbourne
1686	Mrs. J. D. Rankin assigned
1686	Mrs. Enach assigned

1885	June	Miss Muffins Mrs. Betsy Tweed
908	July	Mr. Flemming
908	January	Mr. Bains
912	?	Miss Sewell
1	4 June 1915	M. George Stewart
1916	February 1916	Miss L. R. Hopper (Mrs. G. Mackenzie)
916	March	M. Dudden
918	April	Mrs. Robert Hoag
919	January	M. A. J. Nichols
1920	March Dec 1924	M. Theodor Pearson
968	May	Miss McKay
1969	June June 1984	M. Robert Nelson Clyde Leader
		Mrs. George Kenneth White — Organist
984	Sept. June 1949	Mrs. Frank Sweet
949	Sept. 960	Mrs. Ellen McRae
960	964	Mrs. G. G. Elder
964	964 Dec 1964	Mr. Doris Ryan
965	Jan. June 968	Miss Thelma Atkinson
968	Sept. Nov 969	Miss Vera Zetcher
96	Sept. June 1968	Mrs. G. G. Elder
Sept	968 June 1906	M. Marion Clarke
968	Sept.	Mrs. R. E. Pederson

ST JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 1884 - 1973

Remember when? Do you still remember when you attended St. John's Sunday School? perhaps be rewell books from the church entitled [illegible] recalled the catech ers? gathered in the Christmas pageant? ran races at the Sunday School picnic when the weather permitted or watched smoking or fish skips if the weather was wet? early in grade Kindergarten perm. Jesus Loves Me' and "Face cleanth for you" [illegible] made the effort to stand regularly to achieve a diploma and medal? Are any of these memories yours?

The first Sabbath Sunday school record, under the jul adiction of the governors of Manitoba, dates back to June 29 1884 and contains on 1894 it is interesting to note the number of pupils in the final year ranged from seven to twenty-four and this on roll on from 58p to 82.45 per Sabbath These pupils were divided into the classes — are any of these names familiar to you?

TEACHER Mrs. Archibe ll PUP LS Sd th Porte Elisabeth Porter Jennie Tweed Kate Cochran Bess Wilson Charlotte Louie.

TEACHER. Mr Fred Anderson PUP LS. Earl s Walter Thomas Bassett, Fred A of A feet Bassett James Norquay and Colin Macquay.

TEACHER. Mrs. Toys PUP LS Mary Porter Bessie Cochran, Mam on Cochran Em Wilson, Annie Bassett, Sarah McCubbison, Maggie McCutcheon Cedax McPhe son, George Crich am.

TEACHER James Hargrave PUP LS Wilson Bassett, Marian Cochran Rhoda McKay Wm Norquay John Norquay

TEACHERS' Rev. M. McCaig and Mrs. Lundy

In 1886 Rev. Thos. Davidson conducted a Bible Class consisting of John Chas. Wm. Fanning, Donald Mercer Jas. Hastings and J. P. Lees.

Fees are a name or glory for many reasons, but I am sure that the most unusual one in the early Sabbath School records was one in Sunday School student named Ed. Bu... Ed. is listed in the amusement record for Nov. 1887 in M. Alex Small's class. A criterion was made so much Ed's name in red ink, to this effect, "Methodist Hymn to assist him but did not succeed". Ed's record shows exceptional attendance and study of each lesson until Sept. verses. We read that, that Harry Tassell was sick of rainbow pies in February 1886.

When families left town it was invariably noted in the attendance records.

e.g.—"left to Rat Portage,
"went down the river to the steamer Northcote,
"went west on C.P.R. a carpenter" (A little class student)

Since the first Sunday School record book dates in 1886 and there is a 45-year gap until 1931, we regret that so much of the important part of St. John's Church education is not to hand. History However a few facts have been gleaned from Managers and Session records. We with quick y note these items.

June 1, 1886 The Sunday School presented a Bendezone gutpit chair to the Church.

Feb. 3, 1886 The Christmas Tree party was mentioned

Oct 18 1892 M. Hay resigned from the office of Superintendent
Mr. Owen accepted the position.

Dec. 19 1915 Mr. Thomas took he office.

Dec. 1918 Mr. Elgin Ro served for 15 years, to 1938

Jun. 25, 1918 The School added 200 to names to its history

An unusual opportunity was extended by the Sunday School to Christmas boys who had come to live in our city. In the annual Church Report at Jan. 19, 18 8, two first hour of classes being conducted to teach the boys English. The leader of the project was Miss Louise Beal a well-known Red-cross worker in Medicine Hat. She was assisted by ten teachers, and it is recorded that those Christmas students did good memory work. They had no room in School session had started (Sept) until were interesting pupils. This branch of the work continued until 1924, when no further mention was made of it.

Excellent attendances at Sunday School was a common p ssibility in those years possibly because there were few diversions in our city to draw the interest on of both adults and children away from their Church. At out 10 B Mess Lott's Co s (now Mrs. Haines) taught a class of boys in our Sunday School and she presented awards to the pupils of her c ass for perfect attendance. A winner to the four

yea received a gold and enamel pin as fairly designed for the second year a gold wreath was added to enable a fifth pin, and for the third year a bar was attached beneath the wreath. Three-three year awards were won by Fred Tribble, R. B. Porter and Fred Mc Lean the pin being given in recognition of this gain.

Mr. Ivy Rae
Supt. 1st 25

Sincere regret was voiced from Edmonton regarding our regular Sunday School. Since that organization came in 1906 in 1926, last that date has risen that actual attendance reached that peak. To mark up the record history starting in 1930, we would like to point out that Sunday School teachers did not hold many but some meetings this will take place today by the Superintendent, and they usually met, only to plan the Christmas concert, and the summer picnic.

We pay tribute in the Superintendents and Teachers who carried on diligently over a period of many years, some months attending in the minutes again until again. From 1936 on are included

Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Rae Goode	Mary Mitchell	Mrs. Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Ingle	Mrs. Patton	Frances Gott
Mrs. Phyllis Morrison	Mary Morrison	Agnes Hopkins
Dorothy Taylor	Miss Isabel Anderson	Marjorie Smith
Cay Parrish	Mrs. Rose	Betty Wigh
Isabelle Morrison	Audrey Pribble	Mrs. Partridge
Miss Billie Layton	Mrs. Dawkes	John Lockie R.A.F.
Miss Elsie Layton	Audrey McKenzie	Jean Pribble
Miss Sale	Miss Rose McDonald	Mary Eide
Mrs. Lindsay	Mrs. Myer Brain	Jean Gordon
Mr. Rose	Marion Burns	Mrs. Cunningham
Beryl Hicks	Alice Anne Hawthorne	Hugh Thomlan R.A.F
Mrs. Murray	L/AC Ron West R.A.F.	Mleen Simmons
Mrs. McArthur	Miss Pullen	Mrs. L. Slocomb
Mrs. Jim Pinchbutt	Mrs. Sorenson	Mrs. Anderson
Miss Donnas Latimer	Audrey Nicholson	Pat Taylor
Zelma Sterling	Miss Rees Fowler	Jean Mathews
Mrs. Florence Fowler	Miss Di Foster	Barbara Sorenson
Sub. R. L. Taylor	Shirley Joy	Mr. A. Brenton
Mrs. Jean Taylor	M. Tom Stevens	E. McIver
Mrs. McIlroy	M. J. Smith	A. Schneider
Mrs. Bell	Miss Marguerite Quicklish	Mrs. Lang
Mrs. Kendall	Mrs. Gordon Sharpe	Mcintosh
M. & Mrs. D. Grant	Mrs. Ed Rutherford	Mrs. Miranda Cooke
Miss Dorothy Grant	Mrs. M. Middleton	Mrs. Heather Nolan
Gordon McArthur	Miss J. Sterling	Mrs. Edna Goodfellow
Mrs. McKee	Mrs. A. Knox	Gerry Hooley
Mrs. J. McBeth	Miss Frances Patterson	Mrs. Chesley Schneider

Re

Mr. Alan Carter	Miss Mary Stanley	Mrs. Pauline Peary	
Mrs. H. Robertson	Mrs. M. Williams	Mrs. Maurice Pickering	
Mrs. Gardner	Mrs. Betty Meier	Miss M. L. Pirig	
Mrs. Hodgens	Miss S. Fountaine	Miss Betty Anne Gardner	
Mrs. Tyrrell	Mrs. J. Lyon	Mrs. Margaret Moon	
Mrs. J. Bayne	Rosamond Grant	Miss Jennie Wilson	
Mrs. Kaims	Eugene Nelson	Miss J. Mrs. P. Trotter	
Mrs. Pirig	Marjorie Morrison	Elaine Bayne	
Mrs. Irene Forde	Jo Ann Stevenson	Rev. J. Allison	
Lillian McArthur	Betty Forde	Marjorie Grant	
Rev. J. E. Moss	Frank Kapchalsky	Jane Kaims	
Mr. Jack Williamson	Mrs. Carol Yost	Mr. Pat Hutchison	
Joe Mellyson	Mrs. Ann Pires	Miss Yvaby Bentz	
Miss Margaret Campbell	Janet Harkness	Mrs. Pat Peaples	
Miss Ruth Paulson	Mrs. D. Barnish	Rev. Dr. G. C. Brush	
Miss Heather Bellamy	Miss Sheila Jane	Mrs. Barry Shaw	
Mrs. Rob Marshall	Miss Janis Barrie	Mrs. A. Fyson	
Mrs. Henry Yun	Mrs. Ron Matheson	Miss Sabine Boode	
Miss Cindy Schneider	M. Jan Pirig	Mrs. Aileen Bissett	
		M. Gordon McArthur	

In 1941 the average attendance was 164 pupils, and the average collection was $4.77. At the Sunday School picnic a 1942 attendance and nickels (one cent each worth) were given to first prize winners and soldiers (one cent each worth) were given to second and third prize winners.

In 1944 Cliff Stevenson and Yvonne Lovejoy were awarded twelfth year card holders for perfect attendance and Bible. In this year his award in 1946 also for perfect Sunday School attendance.

In 1945 there was a shortage of goodies for the children's Christmas treat. Instead of candy, oranges were purchased. Mrs. Carrie Jane Langstreth and pictures. If they were available, in 1945 the average attendance of pupils was 91 teachers 16 and collection average $6.37. Pupil ages used was 4-15, and staff 18.

New letter head stationery was introduced in 1955. For many years Mr. Maurice Stone donated a prize to classes and pictures, he amounts varying up to and more than $100.00, a yearly good record for Sunday School use. In 1958 the average attendance was 125 (enrolment 217) teaching staff and officers 26. The best summer vacation of the School was held with a new with an area meant of 84.

The new once-a-month afternoon Church School program was begun in 1976. The children of grades one to nine are served a simple lunch after the morning service the third Sunday of each month. Then they go to the classes at 4:30 p.m. The attendance has been encouraging and the early results very good. Thanks are extended to the Ladies Aid who finance the food. To the we keen who prepare and serve the meal and to the teachers who carry on the studies.

Due to the lack of many of the records, some names will have been omitted. We offer our sincere thanks to all who carried on the work in the Church School.

A typical picnic in the early days is reported in the Methodist Home News on Tuesday June 7th, 1921

On Saturday next July 1 the pupils of St. John's Sunday School will enjoy a picnic on the old Rockville Hill. Everyone has kindly consented to let the boys and girls have the use of the grounds and the grove, which will contribute to the enjoyment of all. All the scholars are asked to assemble at the end of Rockville Hill not later than half past one, when arrangements will be made as to the mode of conveyance. All contributing baskets of eatables are requested to leave them at Mrs. Rankin's — north of the house, and these will in a safe place ready for basket to the church where a rig will convey them to the picnic grounds. As Saturday is a holiday it is hoped that a good number of people connected with the church will make the opportunity a happy present.

THE CRADLE ROLL

A little-publicized work that has been carried out in the church for many years, is the Cradle Roll which has always been looked after by one of the sisters, for a few years, Miss Bentley on to someone else to keep records and send birthday cards to the little newcomers in St. John's families

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In a recent ne h is a story of the Women's Missionary Society It to us Hope that we can say it fitting t bute to be both of our Congregation who have devoted time study worship and faithful stewardship to the at least work of our Church at home and abroad

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has two Women's Missionary Societies the Eastern Division covering the Maritimes and the Western Division covering the rest of Canada. Prior to 1914 the Western Division as we had two societies, one supporting Foreign Missions and the other supporting Home Missions. A Foreign Missionary Society was formed in St. Johns in the 1870's with Mrs. J. W. Morrow as its first president. There are no records of these early meetings

The Home Missionary Auxiliary of St. John's was formed in May 1883. Its dues being set at twenty-five cents for ladies and one dollar for gentlemen. Their monthly meeting was held immediately following that of my Woman's Foreign Missionary society. No further records are available until June 1905 when the minute book, started in May 1905, a new heading "Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society. A complete set of minutes is on file from then until this society was disbanded in 1925

In scanning these minutes many interesting points are noted At a March offering Meeting on November 14, 1910, the group enter tained the ladies from River Presbyterian the Baptist and the Metho-

d a churches. On Apr. 6 1919 Mrs. G. L. Gordon of Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church gave an account of the mission work among Poles of Bowie — as known as away from the pale of civilization. TV special meetings were the occasions of musical programs when members and their young daughters played the piano or sang. In 1913 the group had most of 4 officers and membership dropped from forty-eight to thirty-five when several of these ladies moved to the church on the hill - Westminster Presbyterian.

In 1914 the Honorable Foreign bodies of the W.M.S., W.F., were united and the Mission Band Presbyterials were to meet. The annual meeting held in May money in 1922 the Presbyterial's position was $600.00 of which St. John's share was $275.00. Mrs. Wm. Williamson the first Presbyterial delegate from our group, was appointed to attend General Council in 1915. In 1916 the ladies presented the first Life Membership to Mrs. J. W. Monroe in her long and valued service to the central Congregation. Over the years forty members of the society have received Life Membership and they proudly wear the little gold pin with the emblem of the Church its burning bush and motto. Frugality was major interest as the depression was the one given by the Chinese boys to Miss Louise E. Best, a teacher who had conducted Bible lessons for them in the church.

In 1926 Church Union swept away the existing Presbyteries. Synodicals and Council. Since St. John's had varied age net Union and had now had its property also organ scheme we were one of the strong Congregations in the Province of Alberta. The W.M.S. of St. John's was invited to send delegates to General Assembly in Toronto, April 1925, to help in re-organized on a new. Mrs. A. C. Heaslip and Mrs. Nichelson were chosen, Mrs. Nicholson, only attending. These Presbyterials were formed in Alberta St. John's becoming part of Calgary Presbyterial in October of that year.

In 1941 the W.M.S. groups in the southern part of the province formed the Medicine Hat Presbyterial and St. John's members have, over the years made up a strong part of her body. In 1948, and again in 1963 the question of disunity Medicine Presbyterial and joining Calgary Presbyterial has been discussed. In 1963 a hood vote of members was taken and the motion was defeated. Both years it was decided to retain the status quo. Now again in 1973 the question is under consideration part because of difficulty in finding officers and partly because of a fear on their Council Executive pointing out that Presbyterials should be a means to contain their bounds as with those of Presbyteries.

FORMATION OF THE GUILDS

On November 1th 1944, a meeting of the young women of the Church was called of the Manse to organize a new group. Credit for this came largely as a result of Mrs. A. L. (Jean) Tay or and Mrs. Wm.

Mandy Sutherford. As the membership grew it soon became necessary to build a new church. By 1955 the name Bible Teacher Guild was adopted to honour the Ministries and/or Bible Teacher Training Centre. The Guild was a part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. By the end of 1956 the attendance was so large that the members decided to build a new church. Plans were formed. The Hamilton Presbytery approved the name Bible Teacher Memorial Church. Mr. Ruby Wilson Guild being a beloved deaconess in the work of the Guild. Thus St. John's had two grounds, he can or be so sharing the name of The Bible Teacher Study Group in 1954.

THE PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

A matter of interest will be to St. John's and especially to the W.M.S., since it was the opening of the Presbyterian Training School in 1950 in the James Henry Lee residence in Riverside. It was completed that M.S. Blackburn, a half mile in Calgary, knew that the house was available and that Mr. Henry Lee had wished it used for some such purpose, was begun preparatory for the establishment of the W.T.S. here. The building was purchased by the W.M.S., W.H., for the nominal sum of $ 6,000.00. The purpose of the school was to train lay workers as leadership in local congregations. The law of 1949 was adopted to provide dormitory and classroom accommodation for forty students, but it was never taken to capacity due to lack of interest, and even no classes on the part of even a Atlantic Congregation. There were about forty-five graduates of the school course of study of about six months and a number there were well attended summer school sessions and had a study groups.

The Congregation of St. John's quite joined in the latest swing of the school through finance at supper from individuals, groups, and the Congregation as a whole. Through asking part in the summer school and bible study groups and through the leadership of Miss Jennifer D. M. L. Taylor who was a constant lecturer and helper during the seven years the school was in session. Miss Dorothy Hayes and Miss Marjory Morrison were a student. Another associate at the Women and Hobbies, and married part-time student Alan Wilson and both have given faithful service to St. John's over the years. Three of the students, Ron Kemble, Bob Wyler and Larry Jackson, went on into the ministry.

The key person of the school, during his five years as Superintendent, was Dr. John Brand. He is of unusual ability, with his outstanding Christian character made a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of study by under him.

Largely through the efforts of Miss Marguerite Chisholm, Deaconess and lecturer, a small congregation was established at the school on the latter's move into Riverside Presbyter an Church. A new church was built on the grounds and in 1965 the old house was demolished, and the lane side for residences

Devoted Members of St. John's.

Mrs. J. E. Nicholson Representing St. John's in Toronto after Church Union.

Mrs. Ryder King President of W.M.S. and a Lasting Asset.

Mrs. J. W. Hamilton 40-year Member of W.M.S.

Mrs. James Valencey, Jr. Ardent supporter of the W.M.S.

W.M.S. CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Perhaps the greatest activity and interest among W.M.S. workers across Canada was achieved in the period 1958 - 1964 when Council set several goals for the one hundredth anniversary of the W.M.S. Several financial objectives were set and our groups all worked hard to raise money using projects which stimulated interest in the congregation as well as among our own members. The United Thank Offering was also a part of the Centennial celebrations while four others attended the convention held in Montreal in May 1964 at their own expense these being Mrs. G. H. Fife, Mrs. Myrl Smith, Mrs. Clarke Moon and Mrs. Charles Bowkes. The latter was Synod Call Historian at that time and as the Medicine Hat token were asked to prepare a poster-type display of Alberta W.M.S. history to be shown at the meeting in Montreal. A committee consisting of Margaret Mann, Terry Bell, also Margaret Dawkes worked for months on a suitable display which they took to the anniversary convention. This chart was stored in the vault at St. John's after being shown throughout the province at Presbyterial meetings, at Montreal, 1964

women gathered from across Canada to share in the wonderful programs prepared by the Comm. Executive. The theme speaker for all three days was Miss Margaret Kennedy one of our missionaries in Ja

In 1957 when Miss Kennedy travelled across Canada while in furlough we were really honored to have her visit Hamilton Hall. Here she spoke at a breakfast for W.M.S. Members, C.G.I.T., and Ex planters at the Mo ning service and at a luncheon attended by Officers and Managers and the women and W.M.S. Executive members. We have also been honored by visits from other mis sionaries from time to time.

The le thal system of stewardship money by each member during the envelope system with the amounts known only by the giver and the treasurer has resulted in thousands of dollars being forwarded from St John's through W.M.S. channels to further the work of our Society both in fore ign fields and in Canada. As this is story is being nome ed here members are preparing to assume the main Synodical offices. These positions have formerly been occupied in Calgary Edmonton and Red Deer. New faces at our Conference will take up these previous ly respons ibilities for the next two or three years, there is ing greatly to the dedicated service contributed by St. John's W.M.S. members

We are re luctant to close this report without mentioning the names of a few of the members who gave of their time and talent to maintain the work of the W.M.S. and who are not j ust among the presidents. Some of these are Mrs. F. H. Symons Mrs. R. T. Oxtoby Mrs. J. Cleaver(of blessed Mrs. H. Eastes, Mrs. Ada H. Brown, as Margaret Smith s ter the Misses Jessie and Kate Mauthouse d, the late beating been honored by the Afternoon Study G roup in 1956 when she retired after serving seventeen years as presid e nt. In December 1955, the ans er group held a farewe ll for Mrs. J. W. Hem hen who had been a member in forty years, Mrs. G. G. Ellis and at t h Bowie are honored the Afternoon Study Group Presid e nts at t h W.M.S. and we pause by the la t in this service in the office of Pres dent. Many of the se as Presbyter ial and Synodical offices over the decades thereby gaining knowledge of W.M.S. work while contributing to the strength of the same organization.

DISBANDING OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP

The chang ng life patterns w ch so many fu y occupied working wives, has taken its toll On Apri 2 1958 at the home of its ass President, Mrs. D. Bowie a meeting was conducted by all ex bu ers at wh ch the members who were desirous of keeping fellowship with one another formally disbanded the Afternoon Study Group wh ch had only named in the early forties of the presidents who have served with these faithful women over the yea s and

Mrs Wm (Anna) Wi emson 814 1917 nc
Mrs. J. A. (Anna) Gilbert 1918, 1919, 1926 1928 incl 1981
Mrs. Thos. (Annie) Wilcox 1920 1924 incl Apr 22 Dec 1925
Mrs. Thos. (Ann e) McArthur 1922 1954 nc
(From 1918 to 1934 except from Jan to Ap 16 1925
all the gree ibons were named either Anne or Ann e)
Mrs. M. S. (Ruth) B ackie n 1926 1957 nc
Mrs. Ernest (Ethe l) King 1939 1942 1946 1948
Mrs. C. (Kitty) Ward ne 1943, 1944, 1947
Mrs. G. H (Emmel ine) Eddy —1946 1951 incl 1957—1962 nc
Mrs. R. (M rs a) Rowan 1960 870 inn

At the time of writing this history St. John's has only one W.M.S. group. The Ruby Walker Gu ll disbanded in 1961 fro lo lack of members. n January 1971 the sister Taylor and Haig are (just as ofeal forces and took the name Haig ave Taylo W.M.S. The total membersh p was elevat thirty eight and thirty-three Associate members. (Associate members do not attend meetings but do contribute financ ally) Each group was having difficulty getting officers, and by amalgamating the tota number of loca officers was halved. Thus some members were freed for positions in Presbyterial and Synodical ewo The actions has proved to be wise, especially as they mave nfo acceptance of heavier Synodical responsibilities.

JUNIOR GROUPS

The W.M.S groups have always been interested n the junio g roups the C.O.C. (Children of the Church) forme ly the M ission Band). he Explorers and the C.G.I.T. They have sponsored these groups over the years, g iving them financial assistance and making them aware of their membership in the great work of missions.

Mission Band 1909 1913

There may have been M ission Bands organized n our Church over a period of years, but we have o record of only one, in the minute book of a Miss on Band that flourished from 1909 to 1913. The children a meetings began on Feb. 20, 1909, when they met after school with an attendance of 15 members who gold 10c from Miss Janet Mon ps wag he lives and and Miss Edith Wi son the Secretary-Treasure they and also leaders guiding the children n Mission Study. A great dea o hand work was also done, including dressing dol s, making yard blocks. By the g-e- and cutting out pictures for scrap books by the boys These books were given to Indian Schools sponsored by the W.M.S.

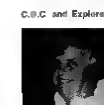
The h igh ght of th e little h story was a prog ram and social

evening in girls, which included recital nos, solos, instrumental duets and choruses. Children mentioned in the minutes were

Grace Wilson	Jessie McKay	Annie Wilson	James Williamson
Mary Shields	Earl Bell	May Osborne	Herbella Agnew
Dorothy Wilson	Lillian Hamilton	Doris Hopper	Stella Gordon
Bert Albert	Tony Craig	Clyde McAdam	Patty Allen
Lyle Wyatt	Robert Malcolm	Stella Malcolm	Walter Bridges

The 14 cubs recorded on a fine white day when the skating was unequally good on the river so the meeting was postponed. The fourth oldest $36.10 of their share in the Bazaar in 1910, with it a remarkable amount for a Church cub of that age.

C.G.C. and Explorers



Mrs. W. L. Taylor
Organizer of Explorers

Two mid-week organizations in St. John's that are noted the children six to eleven years of age were the "Child" and the Church and the "Explorers," both of these Groups have by identical objectives, to bring the children to the church during the week to part classes in activities related to worship, mission study, recreation and service to others.

From 1907 to 1910, Miss Tomlinson, Annie Knox, Doris Richardson and Mary Marshall, devoted their talents and time to promoting the C.G.C. Group. Then in 1918 the Explorers were organized with Mrs. W. L. Taylor and Annie Knox as Counsellors with an average attendance of 12 girls. During the years since then the Group has flourished and the children are a great training in many branches of child development. Leaders assisting Jean Taylor were Minnie Wilson, Alice Simon, Ethel Bandy and Gladys Gardner. The girls worked in sewing projects almost every week so that by Christmas and Easter they were equipped with all sorts of gifts to bestow to the Shut-Ins of our Congregation. The children soon found it easier much money but contributed to work mainly $15.00 yearly to all causes. One corner of pasture has been the collecting of used postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society. The girls were also with the financial help of the Women's Missionary Society.

When a girl was old enough she became a Explorer she was given a red sash followed by a blue and gold stars as she performed various red tasks. For attending faithfully for three years, she was given an "E" pin then a miniature pin C.G.C.

In 1937 the Explorer Group held a farewell picnic for Mrs. Taylor. Chairs were for eight years. She was presented with a gold maple leaf pin and photo album from the girls.

Ruby Schneider became Counsellor after Mrs. Taylor moved away and they continued the activities making awards as the Badge table, and badge and page girls in the Shut-ins of the Congregation. Due to the small number of girls available in St. John's in 1939 our Group joined with River side Explorers under the leadership of Mrs. Ea. Sawyer and Gerry Schneider. The following year Shirley Meier and Fay Hales assisted. The combined group had twenty members and met once at the Explorer prog. am.

Joan Taylor, Leona Rhodes Gardiner, Thora Barrie
Roberta Morrison, Barbara Pratt, Joan Carter, Jeanette Kabaa
Joan Taylor, Heather Atkins, Betty Chow, Hazel Atkins

C.G.I.T

The C.G.I.T. Movement started in Montreal in 1921 under the leadership of Miss Fair who organized at the annual Church meeting that it a new group was progressing well. She was referring to a Christian organization for Teen-age girls formed in Eastern Canada about 1918, whose program was based on the Scriptural verse "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man," that going each girl an opportunity to grow up into city, physically, spiritually and socially. This program has city across the country and the St. John's Group was not organized by 19. All early minute books have been lost but the annual meeting reports of the Church in 1927, 1928 and 1929 state the reports of C.G.I.T. were given this season by Jeanne Sands, Miss H. Dorothy Rhodes and Miss Gertrude.

The uniform of the white middy navy skirt and tie were also part very early in the history of this national Society summer camps were an important part of their program and by 1941, annual Vesper

Services and Churches were sponsored by the Society in larger centres. Girls's Work Board co-ordinated the programs and trained leaders. Here in St. John's the C.G.I.T. became overshadowed by Brownies (by ten year Rangers, and there was no group for senior years. In 1958, Lou Mantle and Trudy Taylor got a group organized under the leadership of Eleanor Mahrer with 4 girls attending, and this has flourished for 14 years.

In carrying out an activity that is helpful to the Church, our girls have a stimulation themselves in their assistance of the Sunday morning Nursery which is held in the basement of the church. The Thursday Club gave the girls $38.00 with which they used to accumulate materials and toys to create a happy atmosphere for the tiny tots. Gifts were also given for babies.

Each year the Women's of Missionary Society conducted an affiliation ceremony impressive on the members the C.G.I.T. girls are part of the W.M.S. This service was sometimes preceded by a Mother-Daughter Banquet.

Money-raising projects included girls parties in a City-wide sale of Home-made candy and making of novelties for the Bazaar.

In 1963 nine girls attended C.G.I.T. Camp at Camp Kennaweis, near Sylvan Lake in 1964 they took part in a Fly Camping Arrangement in the Jubilee Festival sponsored by the W.M.S. When Eleanor Mahrer resigned in 1964 her two workers were Margaret Mawing and Norma Lyon.

Two Recipients of District C.G.I.T. Pins have been held in St. John's, — in 1961 when Anna Knox was a member of the Work Board and again in 1964, when the Fiftieth Anniversary of the C.G.I.T. was celebrated when Marvie Mine and Winnie Wilson were also helpers with the work at that time.

Norma Lyon, Margaret Mawing, Joan Storr, Joan Gordon, Sharon Stevens, Marie Van Wyngarden, Kitty Ng Ng, Donna Prudy, Jean Burton, Mary Taylor, Anna Mooz, Carol Evans.

GIRL GUIDES BROWNIES AND GANGERS

Guiding began with Robert Baden-Powell of Lundeu England A Rally was held at the Crystal Palace in 1909 or boys interested in Scouting and some 11,000 attended — and so were the girls. Image as the result when, a the end of a six-mile march there is presented a ... boy scouts and girls dressed in Scout jerseys neckerchiefs, and ... hats. He told Robert Baden-Powell persuaded his wife Agnes, to take these young girls under her wing and from that time on, Guiding began to develop rapidly spreading to Canada the following year and Guides were organized as early as 1912 in Alberta the first group in Calgary

In 1966 a meeting of teen-age girls of St. John's congregation was called to form some kind of organization for them. Out of this meeting came the engagement to form a company of Girl Guides. At that time few girls had ever seen a real live Girl Guide, then one red at a function in Calgary. Neither Sandra nor I knew anything about Guiding but from this beginning emerged the three corns of Guiding a Brown a Pack a Guide Company and a Ranger Company at St. John's Church being the sponsor such big names to use the normal title the same time don't bring the ... ng as being the best organization in the community. The late Mrs. Mills Gordon, through her interest for the youth of St. John's agreed to become the first Chairman a post she held for ... ten years and Miss A. Pauline Mooney (now Mrs. Jack Gallagher) the first Lieutenant. The new Movement soon captured the imagination of many young girls and then another interested member ... St. John's, Miss Carol ... Conner (now Mrs. Fred Flagg) ... more commonly known as Lisa ... turned up. Sound ... enthusiasm and a hard ... who ... Guiding Movement, and it was through her efforts that three groups began

During the years of the 1940's month ... Church parades and ... meetings were continued in conjunction with the regular Guide programme. I was in the ... experience to be Guide in between a group where she discovered interesting things about the world in which she lived where she could use her hands, her eyes, and her mind ... and at the same time have fun ... normal on with others of the same age. Guiding taught them about nature, how to ... tie, to camp, to ... to be a homemaker, ... and of course how to play. Over the years many girls ... numerous to mention worked hard for the various badges. A Record Card and the Golden Bond, the highest award in Guiding (last year the award was discontinued and a new replaced by the Queen's Gord) The records show that only 2 girls were awarded the award from St. John's and first during ... received by Mary Kimbel (Mrs. Jim Rayon) on March ... 1946. This ... achievement took special significance for St. John's Company as it was the first Golden Cord earned by a Guide in Medicine Hat. Working towards the ... goal began the day a Guide's ... was signed until her 16th ... Guiding when all tests

hall to be completed. Due to the difficulties of the times many girls were unable to attend either for long periods or indeed for the whole course and it is a fitting that we recognize Mary's devotion to duty by Guiding with so many and throughout her life in later years she was actively involved in the Local Association and was District Badge Secretary for many years. I was with great sorrow but we knew that it was God forward in August 1972. The second Guide Corps was received by Miss Rae Fairmaire in 1955 a former member of St. John's, Ukaa Fountaine now resides in Calgary and is interesting to note that both these Guide Corps finished chose nursing as their career

In the war years the girls and their thoughts and energies were limiting, or he Red Cross and helping in many ways with the various war-time projects in the districts. Mrs. Merrick Matthew became Captain and the work of the Guides continued to grow. Miss Hardaker in the Company during the 30's and 40's remained between 30 and 42 girls and in some years there was a waiting list of girls eager to join.

Guides flourished in the 1950's with membership of maintain being a high level. The Girl World Guides, Lady Baden-Powell, visited Melfort in 1952 and again in 1963 in an unofficial stop-over visit, she inspired and encouraged Guides and Guiders alike in her "side chat to K" given at St. Stanislaus Church, where all the uniformed young ladies of the city gathered. In 1956, after many years of faithful service Mrs. Matthew formed the Company over to Miss Barbara Du se (now Mrs Bill Mcmillan) and was assisted by Mrs Janet Hayward, who became Captain the following year

1960 was Jubilee Year when the Guides observed the 50th Anniversary of Guiding in Canada, and the members of the Guiding Movement celebrated this event by planting a highway of guides by the across Canada. This section of future was a long like and beautiful blend of appreciation from all in Guiding as well as an effective way of catching the eye of the public. The group in Melfort was their planted over 800 ships in a plan Trefoil near to the Trans-Canada Highway in the south-west section of the city and as a border of Lawson Crescent. A tree was planted in the Park next to the C.P.R. Depot. In July a Jamboree Birthday Party was held and over 1,000 attended. As its name implies Miss Marjorie Van Tassel, a home Guider took over the Company until she moved to Lethbridge in the summer of 1962. It is sad to record the closing the period 1963 to 1966 as when a battle it find it regular leader to assume the leadership and the Guides gradually weakened. It was with gratitude that we welcomed Mrs. Barbara Mc Rae in the fall of 1966 as Captain. She accepted the position to preserve her group from disbanding becoming both Captain of St. John's Company and District Commissioner. However in 1967, due to many unfortunate circumstances the Company was forced to close. In September of 1968 Mrs. Tasse on her return to Melfort had a new

miles annually. Certificates and St. John's No. 1 Company was re-organised, and under her capable supervision grew from a group of 10 girls to a full company of 30. She held this position until 1924 when Mrs. Kathy Hill became Captain and held this position today.

It is unfortunate that the names of the Charter Members of the first organized Company in Med Cine Hat were not preserved but we list those which are remembered today

Isobel Murray	Violet Miller	Marguerite Isbell
Shirley Redgrave	Sheila Skinner	Frances Best
Marion Matthews	Kathleen Skinner	

The Lieutenants who worked with the Guides over the years are

Alexandra Murray	Jean Layton	Ethel Sievers
Caroline Skinner	Barbara Burns	Lorna Nash
Marion Matthews	Elaine Lassen	Mary Thompson
Jean Pettit	Sheila Skinner	

Some of the former members of the Girl Movement have grown up in the congregation and are still with us. We list a few names that come to mind

Eileen Skinner Lloyd	Jean Pitty Stone	Jane McCallum Hallahan
Kathleen Skinner Flint	Margaret McLeod Baker	Geraldine Pratt Barnet
Dorothy Skinner Scott	Joyce Hanson McCuaig	Margaret Mayridge Coutts
Edna Taylor Sandilands	Betty Pappajeorge Estes	

If only we had space to list the hundreds of girls who took part in the Movement in St. John's over 1913, but in reviewing the years we find that many members of St. John's gave willingly of their time and talents to the service of God during the past forty-one years. Therefore we recognize the Commissioners of the Medicine Hat District who were members of St. John's Min. Tom Murray (Snr) Mrs. Tom Hawthorne (4th) and Mr. Phy. (4th) Mort son (5th). It was during their terms of office from 1919 until 1930 that guiding grew from a pioneer Movement to a well organized unit. There have been many changes in the 41 years over the past years but the spirit and enthusiasm is the same. Years hence some of us will be looking back and sighing at tall uniforms worn and the format of meetings.

In the early years Guides met quite their experience held camps at Ellerslie Lake and were later others up in St. Bernadette and St. Patrick Conferences. It is recorded that the 1st Guides from St. John's attended camp in 1936. The following year it was decided to organize the camps independently and each Company to reserve the right of organizing their own camps. Caroline Skinner having perfected the original camp method, became the first Camp Commandant and with her enthusiasm and go took the Company campers from August 9th to 14th with the help of Mrs. Sid Skinner.

The camps were held in what is now the Menaska Trails Park, but due to the traffic and the various picnickers, the open area where they pitched their tents proved more trouble especially on Saturday

even one when he young cowboys a the fi s t descended upon he camp. I was soon disc dell o n-house to a more secluded s es. But when Mrs Tom Mu ay launched h vision Comm ssioner Dunlevy Mrs. E M. Cawdell a) singly on the need fo gnizing the camp and on tes day she bravely set out on a search of a position any camp many trees in the ne ghbourhood. She wandered across the creek Beyond the old camp sa ll as much strugg ng through the flat ly wooded area came upon a beaut fu valley — and immed ate y aimed as the new campsite which as a glorious lonely Camping was different in the 1930 s and 1940 s. Du ng th s period t was known as Pioneer Camp. Rue mo ney to the fore that little information about things was ava ab e, and it easier but to rely on her own resources for a successfu camp. Pioneer Camp was a mo y one where everything was out in the open except for sleep ng in tents and stringing a la p ove he eating tab e! — also ove the open fire and the s p and ell down. The same fire served mea s twenty fire s all associates as after fire. It d however manages to give de heat for cooking he porridge and any stew or perhaps a 20 Gu des. It was during Mrs. Ann Hawthorne's term as Comm ssioner that she realized the need for improvement in the camping fac ties and was instrumental in raising enough funds to erect a building for cooking and fi ing purposes. Also during m many busy camping s now to be held indoors and even in the c ackling of an ing log fire was shared the girls enjoyed the camp fire sing songs. From th s era p beginning dev as the basket ball play y coul field, camp ng developed into a full week of organised out-door activities. Over the years St. John's Ambulance has given happy and profitable days camping at Ewaste and today they still uphold this tradi ion in the Cook House

BROWNIES

Brownies now get into the act. Not to be outdone, little sisters o Guides began to impose at their little sisters meetings in England about 1916, having a d to be a make pretence at it. Then started by their "mentors" and so began the younger and separate section of Gu ding. This group was called Rosebuds but as no one liked the name, Robert Baden-Powell renamed them Brownies.

And so it was on January 16, 1534 (and my friend Rev. E. 1934) the first Brownie Pack began meeting in Mexticing. Hat with Carol ne Cramer as the first Brown Owl she Miss Ione Tic dot (these fairs Pau Pleasant the first Tawny Owl. Like the newly-formed Guide Company the Brownie Pack and its leaders strug ed to find ideas on how to be a Brownie. Now you may know and smile at the "Good Behaviour" to world it is no "cheti ful that very week, and day and hour she is mute ac ons had even seen a Brownie in Mexic no. Ha or knew anything about them. But these young sisters, as those in England wanted the same experience as their sister guiders, and so once again I, no doubt

back to harvest the unknown but exciting prize awaits of 8 years ago. Add what a challenging experience it must have been as result by her But time and place and we guessed within relatively take the project and the whole enterprise progressed. We even had the nerve to take thirty Brownies by bus to Calgary to a huge Scout Go ne Jamboree. Granted, they were a bit outshone by a crowd of rope and not one was set but what a day. I realize you shudder to remember the long journey, so many ride of those days, he handbag in the Jamboree, the feed rig the bathroom visits, the long ride home. But we did see Lind and Lady Baden-Powell the Cat at Worth Scout and Go ne Understanding such events must stay many inspired alive a since the Pack has have asked back on its 50 year history in St. Johns.

As the years passed the emphasis of B ranches shifted to providing opportunities for young girls to have fun and adventure plus also to prepare themselves to assume adult ves. Thus establishing the important place of Guiding in the Brownie Pack. When a Brownie earned her Wings she was ready to graduate into Guides to continue her education on

Many of the activities — Rallies Jamborees Parades, Visits with the events were shared with the senior group and also the Cubs also Scouts. There was equal participation in fund raising projects such as the sale of Girl Guide Cookies on "Cookie Day" in the Spring and each year. First mention of this project was recorded in the annual reports of 1938

Brownies have remained fairly consistent over the years with an average year membership of about 25. St. John's has been fortunate to permit no leadership and the following are the Brown Owls who have served in this capacity

1934	1944	Miss Carol Hatcher (a section Pack was formed with Mrs. Stewart Blackburn as leader)
1944	1957	Mrs. Joanne Simmons
1962	1969 and 1969	1970 Miss Evelyn Mahrer
1969	1961	Mrs. A. C. Tremblay
1962	1963	Mrs. Lorna Shaw
1970		Mrs. Shirley Patten

Tawny Owls 1964 1973

Miss Jan Gordon	Miss Jeanne Hastings
Miss Pamela May	Mrs. Alice Tremblay
Mrs. Phyllis Jarret	Miss Margaret Hopkins
Miss Shirley MacDonald	Miss Isabel Sawyer
Miss Sue Pennington	Mrs. Shirley Nelson
Mrs. Carol Hatcher	
Mrs. Terry Marshall	
Mrs. Shirley Patten	
Mrs. Jeanette Hehn	

RANGERS

As the Guides advanced in years, a Ranger Company was formed about 1934. With the flourishing of Ranger activities, especially at the senior age level, the Company was active during the 30's, 40's and early 50's, but in the later years it closed and opened again. Due to several attempts at reorganizing the group, the last Company disbanded in June of 1971. Few records are available but the following women served as Captain

Mrs. Nida Gordon
Miss Caroline Carney

Mrs. Marjorie Mathews
Mrs. M. Lawson

Mrs. Phyllis Pothier
Mrs. May Jones

Lina Cosner Pixley
Officer in Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

Captain Mrs. Malcolm Lang in C[illegible]

Marjorie Hilchey

Jerry Hutchison

Mary Mitchell
First Gold Cord in Medicine Hat

Lorna Mackey

ST JOHN'S SCOUT TROOP 1911 1973
Over 60 Years of Scouting

St John's Scout Troop had its beginning as a Boy's Club, sponsored by St. John's Church in the year 1911. Its founder was the late J. Jessop Nott, a long time member of the Boys of Session of St. John's Church.

In the years 1911 the governing bodies of most churches had not yet developed awareness of the need for any church programs apart from Sunday School but only to help get for the youth of their congregation into doing the right way of life. Week-day groups, where they did exist, were purely religious in character.

Mr. Nott formed his Underhill Gymnasium as the first meeting place of the new club were held in part of the establishment. Through the generosity of the late Mr. H. C. Yuill the new club was named and provided with large quarters at the rear of his residence, then opposite St. John's Church. The new club house was completely furnished by Mr. Yuill for the use of the Boy's Club.

The method of the Boy's Club was the first step in the process of meeting a big object for the establishing of a Boy Scout Group in St. John's. The Boy Scout Movement - that is the was growing as an outstanding force in the three years since its founding in 1907 by Baden-Powell, had spread through the British Isles and to many countries of the Empire, including Canada.

Early in the year 1911 official recognition was given to the members of St. John's Boys Club as a group of Boy Scouts, authorizing them to wear the uniform, badges and badges of the Boy Scouts Association. A Royal Warrant dated ... April Ninth was presented to Mr. Nott appointing him as a Scoutmaster in the Boy Scout Movement.

Mr. Nott was delighted with his new calling from Boys of the Session and now a boy in St. John's Scout Troop. Sixty-six became the charter members of St. John's Scouts Troop. Clive Becker Norman Rosslie John Yuill Harold Yuill Frank Mason, Edward Percy Gordon Anderson, Sydney Holt Ivan Rossiter Alec Agnew Lou Le Pass Harold Ferguson James Burns James Cain Raymond Lambert, Donald L. Hibbert, George Crockford Henry Mathews, Wm. Mail, David Milne, Wm. Cocker Wm. Baxter Brayton Becker Frank Connell, Percy Smith, Smyth Fleming, Walter Featherston Jay Warren Ralph Forsyth Alvin Simpson Wilfred McKay Ed. Be Ralph Foster Ivan Wm Ellis Arch a Hawthorne, Maynard Patterson Norman Evans, Wm White, Mr. Method George Gardine Edgar Cooper Ed. Cooper John McCarron Albert Cameron, John Shields, Jas Callaway Keith Mail, Willard Yuill Jack Bob Nolan Henry Nicol Jas. Williamson, Donald Rankin Jack Boyd, Henry Freeman, Bruce Morris, Stuart McRae, Ole Alf Rankin Gus Whitelaw Edwin A Mr. Ole E. O. Lys Eddie Matthews.

In a relief Mr. Harold M. Frank Willard was appointed as Assistant Scoutmaster. The year 1911 marked the coronation of King George V who was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 22 1911. Six patrols from St. John's were in the Contingent which travelled to England for the Jamboree. The six patrols were: Clare Becker, Elmer Van Vliet, Hector Whitton, John Yuill, Jack Kessler, and Ralph Smyth. Mr. Nicol had the honour of being presented to Mr. Hart. Hart was First Commissioner for the formation of the District.

On July first 1912, in the Dominion Day parade St. John's had a float which was a submarine complete with a fin. A carnival of guns and drums. On the cross on October 11 1912 of the visit of the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada. St. John's formed part of the color party in attendance for the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the memorial arbour at the name for planting the Sinonia Avenue Scheme. Part of the ceremony was a flag break and Scout J. H. (Hec) Yuill of the honour. Apparently the flagpole was for short and as a result no flag to break, and the flag refused well below the top of the flagstaff. The Duke with indeed to Hec "Are you a boy by the flag at half mast in Malta, Hec Yuill. Later the troop swore 7 oath Chauffi escorted the Duke's party from his carriage to the wreaths rake.

The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 caused great ag to be come to a standstill in October 1917 in Medicine Hat. Many of the district members of the troop served in the war and some were among those who did not return.

About 1918 Roland Hill was Scoutmaster in the re-organized troop. Jim Castle became Scoutmaster at the Hi y Trinity Troop and after a spectator disagreement the troop merged with St. John's with Hill as Scoutmaster at the time. In 1926, six scouts from Medicine Hat hosted by Stan Morris and Johnny Wourster went as part of the Canadian contingent of 150 to the World Scout Jamboree at Richardsland, England.

In the spring of 1929 Tom MacCharles put up the Ashe since Trophy for the troop competition. St. John's won the most years. A total of twenty in 941 and this was the year three of he teams attended Provincial assemblies. An Association camp was held during the summer of 30 under Bill Morris. November 28th a District conference was held on the occasion of the visit of the new Provincial Field Comm ssioner. W. S. Kaufman. In 1931 the troops took part in the Assembly Camp at Elkwater July 6. 15 and St. John's with two patrols under Fred Pinchbeck and Wally Beckham with Jim Castle as Scoutmaster. The camp a photo has been known now for the published title at a rate of the camp of the "The Wolf" sinker (because it sunk) out very well. The record show d include (according to Ed McKenzie of the Beaver Pat ol) that he swam 6 of best stars and the camp got mention instead — every day in every item — and he boys ca ne to pick-a-mitten name below

a ph m-ecop ionution of courses in t n 1931 there was a t g district com and a September of Police Pr t (and many pets got turned!) well with al he tribe troops St John's paraded to the Cenotaph to the Remembrance Servi on Remembra Th an except event in those days.

And the big E abric Camp was held at Bowser n July 1932 with Tom A on as Camp Scoutmaste for St John's Johnny Bell was g vat high p a as th hes comb bottle to the daily Camp bulletin — the title Blanket Jack Jackson of St. John's was left fully recognized as a cartoonist. These were evening monthly church pa ades were held with the Jenkson brothers Jack and Cecil, n the choir and the scouts ushering and taking he co ection in 1933 34 and '35 held their troop camps were he n Chancellor a he base of and on the West side of Ferguson Mill alongside Beaver Creek. An interesting camp with Tom Allan, Scoutmaste was July 934 with his Indian Tribe patrols — Grizzly S asons Beaver Patrol and Troop Mill division's Wolf Patrol. A of those attend ng camp were given diverse patrol names such as B g Beaver John D ean Busy Beaver Chart a Beaver Runn ng Wolf Rud George 1934 was a so ma yea of he Cypress Hills P g Tercel fire, August 7 12. At new time our Scout who ran the scene to notice a Barney Crockett of the RCMP commanded the fight. Scouts inc ud ng John Hargrove and Bruce Gosc of St John's, no doubt others were there.

Examples of an Cubs — Troop M Wolves of Mark On ey Trophy St. John Ambulance Cadet tchers Cecil Dell Jon Bolchos, Lee B Dell Jean Jackson, Jimmy McLeod

Mr Jessop Neill

Founder of St. John's Rosa Town Na. Period. Contributing for many years.

The highlights of 1935 were the receipt of the King's Jubilee medals by both Jessop Neill and the Castle of St. John's, followed by the coronation on the 12th May of King George and Queen Mary with the Prince of Wales and the Investiture of the Order of Crescent Heights Supreme Chief by Jim Castle of St. John's, assistant chief of seven saloons and by a team of scouts under Gordon (red matches) supervised by the Rovers including St. John's. This function was part of the chain of events arranged across the Empire.

As a further event in the Jubilee celebrations, the Scouts of St. John's partic pated in the c o o tree planting that borders Sandale Street.

1936 was a se the occasion of the big train excursion to Calgary in Al for the Jamboree and visit of the Chief Scout Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell (Year 596 Scouts, Cubs, the late Rolf Benson as scout from Middle ne Hall. Many more in rest the train at each stop. I was a massive ally in Victoria Park grounds. A few of the spectac ins the march i the rain started off from St. John a... the St. John's Scouts are lead coach making their cit "private" with no restrictions ng the mud after rain in the evening. more than 5,000 took part in the Jambo ee and the all-night return t h home with re sident t he year 1936 also saw the departure of Jim Castle from the City Johnny Whitman then took over briefly as Scout by his new Schoolmaster Johnny Hall and Asst Mast Jack Jackson. Recogn tion of Rev. M. S. Blackburn with the Medal Chaplain's Badge presented on both place in the annual St. John's dinner s night.

The years 936 '37 and '38 were h ghlighted by St. John's participation in he ries of action at Anstey Park on the occasion of the coronation of George VI on May 2 1937 '937 at Easter the Scouts (and Cubs) formed part of the nearly two hundred and eight to hoist the road to Heave for the Scout s relat. In tent on the

occasion of the visit of the King and Queen s Jamboree was held in the Medicine Hat Area May 20th and St. John's participated in the pageant depicting the history o Medicine Hat.

In May 1938 for the big Jamboree emerge s emergent was executed f om Heave bul rash and mind be ned at back and only six gushes arrived to make it an ins nations event St. John's pat rol m e gymnast o display and J Jamboree Next was presented with a silver tray in remembrance of a many many years of serv ce on behalf of scouting. The yea 1938 also saw a large contingent of St. John's scouts off o the P ovincial Scout Camp at Sylvan Lake in Camp Woods named after B overlo al Commissioner J. H. Woods under camp director Ian stant p ovincial executive secretary Parish Johnson At the close of the 1938 J. J. Reid fina y depped down as Regional Commissioner after very many years of service and early in 1939 was honored with the Award of Merit"

The close of he 3 rd and 4 th final congress ca years saw the end of the Scout Toy Shop which had ope ated rom various available locations and f nal y kitty-co ner from St. John's earth tal, reaching its top given by the community to the build ing in early chilaren. In July 1940 a big D ublic Scout Camp was held at Elkwater The St. John's contingent and the Cardston Scouts bivouacked as the Core Tribe were ed by Murray Robertson, assisted by Jack Stevens who pla ayed as camp scribe put ishing the daily camp newspaper "Smoke S gnals.

The war years were yes o d liquid for those of leaders as each one left on wartime service. After Johnny Hill final left in 1939, there to lower C aut Hard Leg Carr, Scot Marshall of the RAF staf oned at No 34 SFTS Medicine Hat and then Steve Scudder Th ough these war years many of the scouts assisted Cpl. to Steve E ks Mr. Graham, Tom and Jack Stevens, Mr. G ahame Miner Murray Dan camp of note was the Provincial Camp of Camp Woods, Sylvan Lake, in 194 in with St. John's scouts took part, Tom and Jack Stevens going as assistant camp leaders. An important visit, September 1946 after the end of the hostilities, was the official Jamboree visit of Lord Rowallan, chief scout of the British Empire and Commonwealth, at which St. John's troop ha on a salary at a model camp fe

By 1942 the Scouts and Cubs of Canada had contributed over $80,000 in the "I-7 Ch ns Up Fund" to provide replacement instruments and fill aries in Scouting in the Dominion countries ravaging by the war. Th ough these postwar years and the fifties the Scoutmasters of St. John's after Steve Scudder include the names of Henry Dedels, Les Anders, Cave Starling who particularly Sam Goldby who served for after 1942 where he had started the Mowse Troop then was in 1956-58 Steve Scudder then served in a year again and Rod Barry Hanley

In 1946 Sam Goose assumed as Scout master. In 1961 and continued right up to 1969 in the years 1945, 47, 48 District Camps were once again held at the Bowsers' area. In 1946 in July a Canadian Jamboree "CJ 46" was held at Ottawa at Connaught Park. A representative from St. John's was Alan Cameron. All the Jamboree itself was Hot participation was A beautiful Week Show which was a highlight. This was a miniature of what do we of scouters. These were the years as we, that the Scouts had a Wood Geocrafts Campsite in the tree tree-belt of Hyatt's Trave. Many camps and campfires and Bronze-Silver Arrowhead ceremonies were held here.

In 1950, in the July District Camp at Bowater (2 years old A an Rubberpoint wonderful out of camp and got lost. A [illegible] search was organized mongst a with an radio assistance by pilot Jim Mungo [illegible] a Scout's relief. In April 1952 Lady Baden-Powell visited Memorial Hall in the large Street Rally at the A most like welcome be. A special reception was held to [illegible] St. John's Church. In summer 1955, the World Scout Jamboree was held at Niagara Falls Ontario. St. John's was represented by Dennis McAffer.

During the mid and late 1960s the emphasis was on camping and the moves to the new District Camp Site the main building erected in 1966-67 followed by the programmes construction of the Adirondack shelters built by scouts, seniors and parents. During these years there were annual exchanges via ferry with Heavy Members Kin Cruise accept a fee and to become, always church parties swimming programs all Relation indoor pool. Big range competitions camps drives, numerous camping excursions and of course the annual father-son banquets. In February 1965 on a [illegible] of the Coal Mining at Lethbridge. Saru held a was presented with a we observed Medal

Mr. Sam Goose [illegible] of Scouting
Ottawa Connaught Park

[illegible] 1961
Veterans Jubilee

at Medic in the summer of 1963 Sam and seven Scouts journeyed to the Pine Point Scout Jamboree at Camp Wanita, Sylvan Lake

In 1966 as part of the Centennial celebrations an exchange of Scouts was arranged with Moncton and Sam Goldie hiked as Scout Master of the Medicine Hat contingent who made the journey. Bill Cuska who had been with him campsite on a ridge at Moncton and the groups that flew down the east to Hat in return the Moncton scouts camped at Elkwater in a tent at Camp and race was a warm and friendly reception to the group enjoyed at Moncton to add fun in 1968 Medicine Hat Scouts journeyed to the opening of the new Camporama the deep campsite at Beaver Lake on the edge of the mountains west of Pincher Creek. In addition, most outdoor activities the Scouts indulged in Graham and Malcolm Simons Bill Cuska and Brendan Strachan a Sam John a set up shelter tent camp

The year 1968 was the last a Queen Scout Ceremonies as this disappeared in the new program for Scouting. Most years St. John's Scouts were to be found at the Region Ceremony or the award occasion, and 1968 was no exception for this as along with Scouts Ed Cuska and David Speare. The years 1969-69 were the start of the changeover to the new adult program, with the organization of a Venturer Group mentioned by the District as a start in the new age group 16-17 years. Ed David became Troop Scouts with Sam Goldie as counsellor at St. John's also less time with him in the new programme in the fall of 1972 following departs a from the City of Troop Scouter Ed Bold the present leader Jack Beevers was staff by Murray McLeod as cited on in the new group am presently assisted by Scouts a-Hat a ning David Simons and Ed Cooke, five patrols, 28 boys.

St John's Cub Pack 1931 78

St John's Cub Pack was formed in the year 931 with Joe Hegan its first Cubmaster. A number of old cubs have served the Pack in the capacity of Cubmaster over the years including Art Beckham Tom Allen, Sam Goldie, Ray Wa Cal Wright, Dave Trevor and E. R. Watson. The present Cubmaster a Herb Dent. Over the years the cubs have participated and participated in many of the same rallies, jamborees church parades fund drives, camp with St John's events. They have had their eighth fifty final summer camps and other activities associated with cubbing

St. John s Venturers 1969 - 73

In 969 with the start of the new scout-age group ing program the District sponsored a Venture group under Clayton Stevens and a number of the earlier St. John s Scouts joined in November 1969 a new Venture group was formed with St. John s as sponsor. Sam Goldie as Venturer advisor Senior Scouting person ing Duncan St. John,

David Simpson, Tim Fulton, Ed Cocks, David Mayo, Mike Higgins, Garth Richardson of St. John's troop along with Assistant Caregiver George Ellis committed the founding group. The present Venture Advisor is Allen Sox. This group recently Scouter-in-Training retreat was for St. John's and other troops and packs in the participation in other advanced scouting activity.

St. John's Rover Crew 1931 — 1968

The crew was formed in 1931 and registered in January 1932 sponsored by St. John's. The skipper was A. C. Wade. The crew originally met at St. John's but later set up the Rover Den at the base of their location and is the residence of A. C. Wade. The crew was active until the war years. The list of rovers is a long one and represents a large number of the senior Scouters in the city during those years. Theirs was the sole responsibility in scouting and their contribution in those years was very significant to the scouting movement.

Sponsor's role

In the years of their existence the troop and pack known as the Venture of St. John's have been self-supporting and the only cost to the Church or their sponsors has been in providing a place for them to meet. This is due to the fine Committees of men who, moreso, parents of the boys who supported them, helping the leaders by the raising of funds obtaining new leaders when necessary providing transportation and did far superior activities and in the general management of the affairs apart from the actual training of the boys which is the job of the leaders.

Many men and women have given service to the Group Committee of St. John's over the years and without their aid and financial service the scouting could not have continued to function. The Group Committee since its formation has provided training and camping equipment and on the occasions needed and expenses to council in the appointment. The Group Committee meets regularly and when required for special functions. Much of the credit for the successful troop and pack is due to its work.

A HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S P.S.A. CLUB

Late in the month of January 1958 Reverend W. G. Ernest Hollingworth called together one Sunday morning some six or seven young people from St. John's Choir and described a dream he had for the inception of a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Club. Mr. Hollingworth explained his ideas which were met an uncommon liking in Canada, that they met at five o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday that members might reach us at the close hour of continue past the supper hour and therefore enjoy some relaxation for young people of all years of age and sex.

Thus began the first P.S.A. meeting, and so was inaugurated one of the finest young people's clubs in the city. From its modest beginning a series of meetings were held which laid the foundation for an organization which grew and flourished in our church and community for almost a decade.

The appointment of committees in the areas of Devotions, Education, Discussions and Entertainment provided an avenue of service for every member of the club, and included everyone in the activities. A date set by the formal programs the members arranged in a regular and varied program of club functions ranging from celebrities parties, to picnics, we had weekly choral services, and a variety of athletic and sport activities. One special activity which proved very popular was the social action of the Tuesday Coast with children on the property presently occupied by the Church Hall. The venture started as a daily outlet for the boundless of those club members who were interested in tennis. From a regular activity and Saturday afternoon activity the popularity of the courts grew and five years the club secretary was instructed to rent us of the Church Seat on to be free on to play tennis on Sunday afternoon. Needless to say there was no Sunday tennis.

Among the highlights of the first few years of the club's operation were the inter-national visits with the young people from the Westminster Church in Great Falls, Montana. The first of these in 1960, was the direct result of a visit from one of our own church young people, Mr. Gerald McArthur, [illegible] church affairs as youth ambassador from Man to no Not to Great Falls. An invitation was extended from no Great Falls Young People for any group from our city to undertake a good-will visit to the community. Our P.S.A. Club accepted the offer and in May 1960, the cars of our young people made the trip to Great Falls.

The visit in commenced on Friday evening and culminated on Sunday afternoon when the Montana host group took its leave for home. The official program included visits to special areas of Great Falls, and gatherings with the American Young People as well as Sunday Club activities. There was, however, a dream agenda. Since

Great Falls, Montana, Capital of the State of Montana, a few of the Canadian visitors decided to pay a visit to see what the night life in this fine town consisted of. Needless to say the ladies of the party elected to visit Alberta. Needless to say the night life left much to be desired by the extroverts as quite a few of the participants in this extravaganza quickly became evident to the rest of the group as the following day instead of being dressed for the Great Falls group, who might reasonably have assumed that it was merely a morning with an entertainment to be on by a church group, they decided to set up another such tour. The following night to be as it had the Canadians did not miss any of the night life of the Electric city. Needless to say the Rev. Mr. McCormack as chaperone was unaware of his side trip which took place by some at the group.

The International Visit was so successful and popular that a motion was made by the Great Falls group the following year. Although plans were made to continue these events, the war interfered and regretfully the trips had to be cancelled.

Also of note to say is how many members the W.S.A. staff had, for here was continual shift in personnel. The first minute book did notes that forty-three members attended the second meeting of the club on February 3 1888.

The first executive elected by the call consisted of the following members

President	Edwin McKenzie		
Vice President	Frances Poppleton		
Treasurer	Anne Cahill		
Secretary	Myrtle Fleming	Committee	Gertrude Bell
Executive	Mary Morrison		Arthur Bailie
	Tom Moore		Isabel Anderson
	Gordon Inglis		Jim Murray

The members' list to list on minutes shows who were and were not W.S.A. staff at one time or another. Asterisks indicate names of Staff members of No. 34 Service Flying Training School

Mary Austin	Mabel Comish	Jack Armstrong	Frank Lilly
Betty Wright	Mary Wallis	Joan Stevenson	Helen McKenzie
Eileen Kelly	Helen Hadley	Rev. H. Buckler	Esther Jacobsen
Frances May	Arthur Holmes	Frances White	Hugh Thomson
Pearl Bodley	Paul Pennington	Dave Snyder	Charles Lafonte
Helaine Layton	Lloyd Purnell	Myrtle Fleming	Wilmot Burbidge
Audrey Fairley	Ron Spencer	M. ng &	Claudia Jackson
Alice A. Hawthorne	Hazel Muirhead	John Bell	Mrs. Taylor
Allan Fenwick	Kelly Burbidge	Martha Kirtha	John Harris
Carol Olson	Elinora Taylor	Beverly Mitchell	Hilja Layton
Hazel Woodman	Rev. R. L. Taylor	Gordon Ingis	Betty Walsh
Lil an Dempster	Audrey McKenzie	Mary Mitig	Marjorie Smith
Claudia Jacks	Ray Hartman	Anne Calder	John Patterson
Helen McPhail	Trey Perrin	Isabel Rathore	Mrs. Belcher
Helen Symons	Gordon McKelvey	Alex Thomson	Mary Jacobsen

Zanie Mac by
Ron West
Betty Postlewaite
Lois Giles
Harriet Layton

Ethel Anderson
Frances Postlewaite
Lavis Edwards
Orville Lang
Bernard May

Enid Fiddler
Fred Hodgson
John Lavis
Dorothy Mead
Dorothy Lavis

Arthur Pinkerman
Marion Donnelly
Violet Martin
Bridget McKenzie

During the War Years, the R.S.A. has become a haven for many of the service men with England who were in any of No. 84 S.F.T.S. To these young men far from home the friendly, the club offered his own club fellowship of a home away from home. They in turn, brought to the club life by relative and individual gifts of talents which were soon put to good use. A highly likely fact for R.S.A. club who's not have ceased to exist during the years it have sustained its interest among its members had it not been for the steady flow on of new members from the Station. The interest was in from one-sided however for many of the old and the enthusiastic few future husbands flaming the Sunday afternoon meetings.

As the war came near and the increase in the end of the progressed in active service careers, the interest in the club went more and more and continued its resplendence was rare indeed between them and the five years. Co-respondent of the club who for many years was Elsie Layton (now Mrs. Ben Jenkins).

In 1944, one of the major movements of the club was the introduction of a club paper called The Torch which was sooner one lastly also became a most popular publication particularly among the absentee members.

Although News and Gwen Hollingsworth was the rearguard up in behind the club and carried by founding father he entered he chairlancy his pace was taken by Reverend Wilfrid Butcher who he had was on service with the services sent thus Reverend R. L. Taylor as well the club through the years from 1943 to its final meetings in the late forties.

In common with many clubs organizations, the R.S.A. Club did not rest its activities on any spec for day rather it continued until declining membership, maybe it evident that it no longe possessed its original appeal. As was noted earlier one of the benefits of the organization during the war years was the continual reunion of members from the Air Force station and when the war years concluded the club did not offer the same appeal to a new general on

The words to farrow years written by Enid Hodgson one of the staunch members in the club who had just been recalled to England. They provided a fitting epitaph for an organization which meant so much to so many young people from all church on community and from England across the water.

"We are grateful to be numbered among you. To us all meet, bonding a friend which we only see as after we join. I am sure that

a life yeall of pleasu we will recal with someth ng of s ecth, he many p easan hours spent a your company — outings, mem ers ips picnics — and ho sigh even then wil know hold sad breaths to you hardly reas o accepting us this you club that we were quite a great company to pass some of our le sure hours in the various phases of the Club o act vities and though we lost temporarily friends, and familia places n can no ha e what ook we have had to feel such a large group of friends as yourselves, and how we will always think that some of the best hours o our hour of daily in Canada were Pleasant Sunday A te noons, wing f lie to say with you the few words that mean most of all to all our meetings — the words — "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE NURSING CIRCLE

Mrs. Nicholson
Mrs. Jim McCourt
Mrs. Wylie
Mrs. Hayes
Mrs. McFadden
Mrs. Harrison
Mrs. Minnie Scott
Mrs. A. Pattison
Mrs. Price
Mrs. McDougall
Mrs. Ed. (Isabel) McKenzie
Mrs. R. F. Bailey
Mrs. Morris
Mrs. J. Wyatt
Mrs. D. Ferguson
Mrs. Donaldson
Mrs. McArthur
Mrs. Curran
Mrs. Pyperkowitz
Mrs. Reid
Mrs. Gillespie
Mrs. Ferguson
Mrs. Middleton
Mrs. D. Gardner
Mrs. McCully
Mrs. McFie
Mrs. Jones

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE GIRL CIRCLE

Mrs. B. Calder
Mrs. Alex Anderson
Mrs. Ken Bell
Mrs. J. Burns
Mrs. Dryden
Mrs. Wirtel
Mrs. E. Thomas
Mrs. C. Stewart
Mrs. W. Rutherford
Mrs. McArthur
Mrs. W. Dryden
Mrs. E. Hailey
Mrs. Pearson
Mrs. A. Fitzgerald
Mrs. Medhurst
Mrs. J. Mellin
Mrs. Tom Hughes
Mrs. M. Todd
Mrs. F. Rutherford
Mrs. Millen
Mrs. J. Hill
Mrs. A. Bell
Mrs. B. Porter
Mrs. J. Masterton
Mrs. R. Stevens
Mrs. M. Masterton
Mrs. C. Hobson
Mrs. W. Baker

FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 1918

Maj. Matheson
Pte. J. T. Bridges
Pte. J. Henderson
Pte. Robert Burns
Pte. C. Middleton
Pte. W. E. Fichter
Pte. J. H. McClean
Pte. H. L. Smith
Pte. Clarke
Pte. Bob Wade
Pte. Ralph Hesgill
Pte. R. Gabriel
Pte. A. Gutteridge
Pte. Jas. Lamb
Pte. W. Fenny
Pte. C. A. Stephens
Pte. Frank Gibbs
Bomber Wm. Bone
Pte. R. W. Chandler
Pte. A. Middleton
Pte. W. Morrison
Pte. R. Bell
Sapper Gordon McC.
F/Lt. P. McLaughlin
Capt. Cecil Copeland
Pte. Shaw
Pte. Smith
Pte. Frank Willard
Lt. C. Duckworth
Pte. R. Bell
P. L. Sec. Calder
Pte. Wm. Martin
Sgt. Baker
Pte. Thos. Tweed
Lt. James Cook
Pte. Lancaster Millhaugh
Samuel McGregor
W. Lowney

Pte. A. W. Beeman
Pte. R. Brooks
Pte. E. Jamieson
Pte. Percy Lee
Pte. R. R. Fraser
Pte. R. Brooks
Pte. A. Hudson
Pte. R. Good
Sentner Fees
Pte. R. S. Peck
Pte. J. C. Bateman
Pte. T. M. Campbell
Pte. J. Jarvis
Pte. C. McKinnon
Pte. R. E. Rose
Pte. G. Williams
Sgt. Ross Williams
Lieut. R. Ross
Pte. F. Colquhoun
Pte. J. Ferguson
Pte. Crequiart
Pte. Stanley Fox
Pte. W. Keene
Pte. Simpson
L/Cp. R. Ross
Pte. R. Collins
Pte. Alex. Robertson
Capt. Hargrave
Pte. J. H. Black
Pte. W. Bain
Pte. W. R. Pilgrim
Cpl. H. Crawford
Pte. C. E. Johnson
Pte. Alex. Reid
Sgt. W. J. Beeman
Pte. M. Peard
Cpl. E. C. Tribal
Pte. J. Acheson

Pte. A. Kendall
Pte. G. T. Davidson
Pte. W. S. Watson
Pte. McKay
Pte. A. McIntosh
Pte. W. McCallister
Pte. J. H. G. Turnbull
Pte. A. Robinson
Pte. A. Reid
Pte. W. R. Edwards
Pte. P. Batty
Pte. A. J. Poole
Pte. P. Lake
Pte. H. McKay
Pte. W. Thompson
P. L. Clerk Becker
Pte. Wm. Mitchell
Lt. J. R. Wills
Cp. R. F. Morrison
Pte. R. R. Ware
Pte. R. McKellar
P. L. J. McLaughlin
Pte. C. Beeman
Pte. J. L. Richardson
Pte. Shoesmith
Pte. Wright
Pte. White
Pte. Martin
Pte. R. Richardson
Pte. Mcbeth
Pte. J. R. Pilkington
Pte. Chas. Baker
Dr. W. R. MacDonald
Lt. J. R. Cameron
Pte. Atkinson
Cpl. A. R. Coles
R. R. Taylor
Pte. H. McEwen

Pte. Fay Aloyd
Pte. J. C. Anderson
Pte. J. L. Ayrton
Pte. B. G. Bassarin
Pte. Bate
Pte. Ray Gordon
Spr. Chesworth
Pte. Terrance Finlay
Pte. Cyril Cowie
Pte. Donald Masterson
Pte. E. Cook
Pte. M. Eddie
Pte. B. Atkinson
Pte. J. C. Collins
Pte. B. Forbes
L. A. W. Hawkins
Pte. Ivan Wallis-Reed
Lt. Gordon Duffy (R.E.D.
Pte. B. Page
Sgt. J. R. Graham
Pte. J. Green
Pte. John Wylie
Pte. P. W. Anderson
PTE. P. ROBERTSON
VICTORIA Medals
Pte. F. B. McDonald
Pte. Ronald Kennedy
Pte. F. Hall
Pte. Fred Milligan
Pte. T. F. Todd
Pte. Chas. Tyrell
Pte. B. Ellis
Pte. Harry Matthews
Lt. J. R. C. Gibbons
Cpl. Wm. Kennedy
J. W. Neil
B. M. Shank
M. G. Clinton
B. Middleton
B. F. McIntosh
T. B. M. Innes
P. B. Young
Geo. Petty
B. B. Macdonald
Lieut. F. G. Stevens
Pte. Semple
B. W. Tomlinson
W. H. Downey
L./Cpl. Hutchison
Subs. Marsh
B. B. Eadie
R. B. Shepherd
C. H. Mellor
H. Bate
Pte. Wm. Lakey
J. F. Pitts
Sgt. J. Fe[illegible]
Pte. Re[illegible]
Pte. Ge[illegible]
Sgt. W. B. Stevens
Pte. C. B. Aird
A. Cox
Pte. B. Fellows
Sgt. Fenwick Rutherford
Pte. Alex Henderson
Lt. Basil Jones
F. D. Lawson
Pte. Jay Watson
Pte. T. Slade
Pte. B. Elliott
F. Lt. C. L. Wal
Pte. Wm. Semphoe
Pte. C. B. Caims
Pte. McDonald
Pte. Jackson
Pte. J. Johnson
Pte. Laurie Rowsell
Pte. Fleming
Pte. B. G. Ell
Pte. Robertson
Pte. Wm. Patrick
Pte. Sergt. Rhodes
Pte. Billy Lauder
Pte. Urquhart
Pte. C. Gordon
Pte. Jas. Watson
Sg. B. D. Burke
Pte. Eric Matthews
L. Wm. Barker
Private B. Roberts
M. F. Thomas
A. J. Snowden
W. W. Fleming
Sgt. P. McKinnon
Pte. Wm. Hall
Private W. Wright
was Russian
C. C. Barnes
Sgt. A. L. Morrison
Pte. Masterson
Trumper L. Lindsay
B. L. Hawkington
C. Masterson
Jas. Dalziel
J. B. Irvin
B. Hall
B. L. Fraser
Cpl. J. Sparrow
J. B. MacLean
T. Woodcott
Robert Wilson
Julian B. Johnson
Lt. Jas. Hart
Pte. H[illegible]ean
Pte. Brown
Pte. Campbell
Pte. J. C. Reid
Pte. Jas. Hunt
Pte. B. Fraser
Sg. Farmer Wright
Pte. J. Boyd
Pte. R. Tufts
Pte. J. Collins
Pte. Hendrickson
Pte. G. M. Collins
Pte. Reid
Lt. Horace Whittle
Pte. Frank Willard
Jr. Waight, M.C.
Pte. Farquhar
Pte. Hutchinson
Pte. Harold Rosaline
Sgt. H. P. Black
Pte. Arnette Smith
Pte. B. L. Hawley
Pte. B. Fleischmann
Pte. W. Rennefrd
Lt. Ragsdale
Pte. Jean Rueckle
Pte. B. M. Donald
Pte. A. C. Mercury
Pte. Jas. Richards
Pte. Wm. Gretton
Pte. Frank Matthews
Pte. B. Gilchrist
Lt. B. Thomson
Fred Tomlinson
Edward C. Webb
B. J. Robertson
Wm. Brockett
J. Aldridge
B. MacLean
Ernest B. Mc Nevin
A. B. Mclennan
J. U. Cuff
B. B. Bunn
Pte. Cook
T. M. C. Harrison
H. N. Atkinson
H. Gidney
C. Charles Colquhoun
G. L. Asquith
F. G. Schofield
Pte. T. W. Hudson
Sgt. Forbes
A. B. Bristow
A. Rhoads
John Jacob
T. Stephens

Pte Joe McKenzie
Pte. David M. Gillespie
Pte. John A. G. Hoare
Pte. H. L. Groin
G. Thomas
W. S. Short
Pte. G. Hicks
Pte. J. Heggie
Pte. Jan. Lamb
Pte. P. Mellan
W. McAllister

Pte. N. Robinson
W. G. Twyning
Pvte. R. Murray
Wm. Fleming
Sgt. H. F. Miller
Cpl. S. H. Snedcast
Pte. J. S. Brydon
Pte. R. J. Haugh
Pte. F. A. Crookes
J. P. Lawlor
Pte. Middleton

W. P. White
W. T. Thompson
Wm. Gavrie
R. S. Hughes
Pte. V. L. Brown
W. Hicks
Pte. J. Tryden
Pte. Alfred S. Hunter
Sgt. Rob K. Fairlie
Pte. R. Shaw
Pte. McCrindle
Pte. Andrew Gillespie

There were two Regiments recruited in Montclare Hall during the First War — The 3rd C.M.R., Commander — Col. F. O. Stennett, at which 198 men were sent to Valcartier. The 76th Battalion, Commander Lt-Col. Alistair Fraser-of which there were 24 men from Hall. There were many more men who joined other Regiments.

Roll of Honor

SECOND WORLD WAR 1939—1945

Kenneth W Ainslie
Gordon Anderson
Walter Bell
John G. Bodleian
Bruce McKenzie
Ben Lee
Robert A. Lindsay
Norris E. McCombie
William C. D. Ross
Cecil Starling
Wi lliam McQueen
Wm. G. Shadbolt
Marshall Bennett
Gordon MacArthur
Jas. M. Taylor
J. Lyle Wyatt

Cecil J. Craig
John A. Porter
Kenneth Parkin
Gordon Armstrong
D. A. Begg
John A. Bell
Allan J. Middleton
Frank Forbes Mackintyre
Allan Hyslop G.
Kenneth M. Gray
Edward Cluff Gray
Fergus Fraser
George Gasse
Richard Lidstone
James Blackden
Allan Hopkins Jr

Dr. G. G. Hide
William Morris
James A. Parrish
W. S. E. Hollingworth
Jaynes Marchant
Private Shadbolte
Robert W. Hyslop
William McLaren
G. R. Baker
E. A. Parrish
J. A. M. Scott
Stanley Muir
Evelt Herman

Douglas Middleton
Jack Frazer Short
Stephen B. Bailey
B. B. Middleton
M. J. Middleton
William B. Simmons
J. A. Steele
W. Sterling
R. W. Lockley
W. B. McGowan
E. J. Holland
Jas. Crockett
B. J. Carey
Jack E. Fitzpatrick
John Hargraves
H. T. Hargraves
E. W. R. Rosewell
Robert Burns
B. E. Riley
Robert Tuffs
J. H. Mitchell
W. B. Rutherford
R. T. Merchant
R. N. Laing
Helen Hill
Betty Hopkins
B. M. Roche
Renee Steele
B. B. Middleton
Jean Laidlaw
Helen Mitchell
Margaret L. Shepherd
A. M. Hargraves
F. Fitzpatrick
S. L. Mallard

Alastair Bain
R. L. McLeod
J. W. Philp
W. C. Bradley
W. M. Currie
Brenda Duckenfield
Hugh Postle
J. B. Middleton
D. C. Fenton
B. L. Osborne
R. B. Tewkesbury
E. J. Rutherford
B. D. Roche
B. A. Lockley
W. J. Wilde
P. R. Mitchell
K. G. Mackenzie
Renate Swat
Bobbie Glasgow
S. J. MacDonald
D. B. Simmons
N. T. Philp
A. J. Osborne
Rev. Mumby
Mrs. Hutchinson
D. MacGregor
John MacGregor
Wilhelm Bell
Jos Bell
B. M. Lloyd
J. Cawthery
Winston Duggan
Ewart Duggan
Jack Muir
J. B. M. MacKinnon

W. E. Palmer
F. M. Clelland
Reverend W. Strange
Merrick Roche
R. W. Wright
D. Wright
W. Ahern
D. B. Bell
W. Gray
F. W. Featherston
W. G. Clark
W. D. Wills
L. A. Lefever
G. B. McGowan
Mrs. E. MacLeod
J. R. McAlister
T. G. Bothell
W. J. Graham
B. V. Parker
Enid Fiala
D. W. Fraser
W. R. Macgregor
John Stevens
Thomas Simons
Elsie Rowsell
Gerd B. Bjelde
Agnes Bjelde
Colin Mackenzie
Noreen Middleton
Basil Matthews
Robert Patterson
Jessie Ryan
Glenn Postle
Harvey Rothwell
Dr Nora Rothwell

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF BELOVED MEMBERS

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

WEST SIDE OF SANCTUARY

In Memory of	Presented by:
James Macgregor 1843-1903 Alexandra Isabel Hargrave 1866-1899	Their Children
Henry Stewart	Maurice Stone
Jean and Richard Baxter	Phyllis and Charles Baxter Ruth Hughs
William and Jessie Caraline Catherine Thornton Jessie Kittel	Grace Cousins
The Hendriksen Family	Presented 1964
Sr. Adam Mendrinos Mary Florence Mashkuth	Juliana and Ray Pettigrew

EAST SIDE OF SANCTUARY

Herbert Stewart 1881-1948 Lizzie S. Stewart 1885-1964	The Stewart Family
Albert Kaufmann 1894-1964	Laura and Wayne
Janet Mitchell 1865-1941 Margaret Mitchell 1868-1941	Mrs J. (Helenor) Mitchell
Sir J. C. Hargrave 1878-1941 and his wife Mary Jane 1874-1962	Howard Campbell Blake Edith and Margaret
J. Jessop Hart 1878-1964	Nora Hart

GIFT	IN MEMORY OF	PRESENTED BY
Doors to the Sanctuary	JOHN JESSOP HART	Nora Hart
The Pipe Organ	MEMBERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN TWO WARS 1914 1918 1939 1945	The Congregation
The Chimes	Trevor S. MONTGOMERIE	Grace Montgomerie
Font Bible and Brass Lamp	FATHER FOR JACKIE ANNIE JACKA	Their Family
Baptismal Font	DR. AND MRS. ADEN Also NITCH	Juliana and Ray Pettigrew
Communion Plate	THE REV. JAMES HERALD	St. John's Congregation
Memorial Pieces	THOMAS TWEDDELL	Fellow Bearers of the Church
Cushions for Pews in Sanctuary	FLORENCE MOIR MAAS	Her Family
New Book of Praise (Revised 1976) Complete Set for Congregational Use	MR. JOE TAGYE	His Family

MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARCH 1973

Mr & Mrs D Aiken
Mr & Mrs Norman Anderson
Mrs Anne Armstrong
Mrs W Garnet W Ker
Miss Edith N Riley
Mr Jack Savile
Miss Janice Scott
Mr & Mrs J C Shenk
Mr Harry Sidebotham
Miss Phyllis Slocker
Mr Gordon Sol
Mr & Mrs Jack Stott
Mr & Mrs Jack Sweeney
Mr & Mrs Alan Sweeney
Mrs Jessie Swinton
Miss Jessie Swift Hay
Mr & Mrs David Swindell
Mr & Mrs Tom Talbot
Mr & Mrs Arnold Turner
Mrs M Vos
Mr & Mrs Allen van Blyth
Mrs Ann M Wardle
Mr & Mrs Jack Wardley
Mr & Mrs Ronald Warren
Mr & Mrs Arthur Weir
Miss Edith Robert Brown
Miss Evelyn Bolton
Mrs Marilyn Burk
Miss Dorothy Duncan
Mrs Mary Cobb
Mrs Isobel Campbell
Miss Margaret Campbell
Mr & Mrs Robert Campbell
Miss Margaret Campbell
Mr & Mrs George Cooke
Mr Samuel Cooke
Mrs Hannah Cooke
Mrs Ann Cox
Mrs Edith Crothers
Mrs Ann Cuthbert
Mr & Mrs James Curran jun
Mrs Ena Dennis
Mr Bert Aubrey
Mr & Mrs Ab Dobbs
Miss Susan Dobbs
Mrs Margaret Dobbs
Mrs Jean Dobbin
Mrs Gwendoline Duggan
Mrs Ann Dunn
Mrs Jessie Dunn
Mrs Edith Dunwoody
Miss Joyce Dyer
Mrs Dorothea Elder
Mrs Kathleen Elder
Mrs Enid Ewe
Mr & Mrs William Evans
Mr & Mrs Ken Farmer
Mrs Edith Fitzgerald
Mr & Mrs Fred Fogg
Mr & Mrs Ian Forsyth
Mr & Mrs Desmond Fleming
Mrs Nancy Fleming
Mrs Lucie Gibbs
Mr & Mrs G Gold
Miss Myra Ford
Mrs Annie Forsyth
Mr & Mrs Roy Frankish
Miss Enid Frankish
Mrs Dorothy Gardiner
Mr & Mrs Jo Gilhespy
Mr & Mrs W Bonnar
Mrs Edith M Riley
Mrs Elsie Gordon
Mrs Ethel Gordon
Mrs Ann Graham
Mr & Mrs Jack Graham
Mrs Ann Gray
Mrs Elsie Greenwood
Mrs Ann Hall
Mrs Elsie Hamilton
Mrs Ann Hamilton
Mrs Edith Hamilton
Mrs Mary Hamilton
Mrs Ann Hamilton
Mr & Mrs Jack Hamilton
Mrs Ann Hamilton
Mrs Ann Hamilton
Mrs Ann

Mr & Mrs Albert A Abel
Mr & Mrs Ed. Ray Bedford
Mr & Mrs Harold Bellow
Mr & Mrs Percy Bolton
Mr Fred Bowerman
Mr & Mrs Jim Bulcher
Mr & Mrs H. Bush
Mr & Mrs Ray Cooper
Mrs Mabel Davis
Mr & Mrs Robert Dodds
Mr & Mrs Ernest Edwards
Mr & Mrs Gordon Edwards
Mr & Mrs Jack Emerson
Mr David Emerson
Mr & Mrs Gail Fenton
Mrs Daisy Gregory
Mrs. Lillian Gurney
Mrs. Mr & Mrs. Wm. Ernest A
Mr & Mrs. Wm. Ernest Jr.
Mr & Mrs Ernest Hamblin
Dr. & Mrs Kent Hatley
Mr & Mrs. Cam Hopkins
Mr & Mrs Harold Hudson
Mr & Mrs Jack Hunter
Mr & Mrs Jack Jackson
Mr & Mrs. H. Kean
Mr & Mrs. Cree Keating
Mrs. Mary Kinsburgen
Mrs. Dorothy Klement
Mr & Mrs Frank Klein
Mrs. Jennie Kuntzer
Mrs. Jean Lamb
Mr & Mrs. Frank Lamb
Mr & Mrs. Lloyd Lamb
Mr & Mrs. Lloyd Lamb
Mr & Mrs. Ernest Lamont
Mr & Mrs. Harry Lamont
Mr & Mrs. Wm. Ernest Lamont
Mr & Mrs. Wm. Ernest Lamont
Mr & Mrs. Wm. Ernest

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister- The Rev. B. C. Smith, M.A., B.D., Ph.D.
Organist and Choir Leader: Mrs. K. E. Patterson

SESSION

Moderator
Clerk of Session

W. Barnett	623-5867	W. Hammond	29-5698	H. L. Stone	627-2691
E. Hicks	555-3462	R. Lloyd	527-5181	D. L. Stearns	435-2897
D. Christopher	536-6681	E. L. Marquart	586-3982	W. Stearns	627-3837
Dr. Thomas Hall	627-3861	G. McKenna	586-3981	Dr. Stuart E. W. Fuller	435-2811
Hugh Wm. Hall	627-3861	J. B. Mackie	528-6810	Prof. Sumerson	627-3979
A. A. Hudson	586-6822	Dr. Ian Macleod	525-8700	A. D. Tetford	586-3114
W. Hobbs	525-5123	D. E. Burns	522-6141	P. VanDongendonk	627-1365
M. B. Hanley	627-9668	D. Burns	522-6141	A. J. Wilson	627-6987
D. Hawkesworth	536-2746	B. H. Schmidt	525-1966		

Retired E. Young
Dr. Lethbridge Years of Service

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Chairman
Secretary-Treasurer

A. J. Burns (Mr.)	627-2822	A. Marshall, Mrs.	627-2653	J. M. Pratt	328-2016
E. E. Engemoen	327-3879	A. Meier	327-3246	S. E. Reid (Miss)	328-3646
E. J. Hill	327-3747	W. J. Mitchell	327-0382	E. M. Sandberg	327-4196
Mrs. Hill	627-3747	Parker (Miss)	327-3988	R. H. Rob	327-5160
T. Hughes	586-5825				

Church Secretary
Envelopes, Retired
Reception Committee
Church Flowers
Sunday Nursery
Visiting Committee
Church Caretaker

Miss E. Meyer 525-4277
Miss Hilda 525-4562
Mrs. Brooks 327-6015
Mrs. A. Bria 526-2547
Mrs. D. Spears 536-5438
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery 526-3654
Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton 536-7264

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. Kindergarten Beginners — Entry Sunday Ages 3½ to 5½
10:15 a.m. 2nd Sunday in Month (5 Jul)

WEEKLY MEETINGS:

Sunday	7:30 p.m.	Youth Group	
Monday	8:00 p.m.	Choir	
Tuesday	7:15 p.m.	Weaving	
	8:15 p.m.	Boy Scouts	
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts	
Thursday	4:30 p.m.	Junior Choir	
	9:30 p.m.	Senior Choir	

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

2nd Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Ladies Aid	
2nd Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Knights of Taylor W of S	
3rd Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Scout Group Committee	
4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Board of Managers	
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Session	
Other Events:			
Monthly	2:00 p.m.	North Side Visits	
1st Thursday	8:00 p.m.	Hall Circle	
3rd Thursday	2:00 p.m.	7th of Street Circle	
	8:00 p.m.	Thursday Club	

COMMUNION SUNDAYS:

1st Sunday — October
2nd Sunday — November — March — June

Mr. R. Babik	525-8596	Mrs. Hall	525-3260
Mr. N. Bond	525-3260	Mrs. C. Horton	526-2281
Mrs. C. Burton	526-2281	Mrs. I. Hill	527-2709
Mrs. I. Hill	527-2709	Mr. J. Stevens	527-1509
Mr. J. Stevens	527-1509	Mrs. W. VanDongendonk	627-1365
Mrs. W. VanDongendonk	627-1365	Mrs. T. Patterson	526-6407
Mrs. T. Patterson	526-6407		526-3174

Mrs. W. Bradley	627-4814	Mrs. Hall	525-3260
Mrs. G. McArthur	526-5018	Mrs. A. Nelson	526-6294
Mrs. A. Nelson	526-6294	Mrs. K. L. Hood	523-2363
Mrs. K. L. Hood	523-2363	Mr. T. Hood	523-2363
Mr. T. Hood	523-2363		

Mrs. T. Sleeny	526-5012	Mrs. Hall	525-3260
Mrs. S. Carter	526-2281	Mrs. Hall	525-3260
Mrs. W. Mesplaka	525-3855	Mrs. Hall	525-3855
Mrs. M. Gordon	616-6279	Mrs. Hall	616-6279

ERRATA: 4. Page 46 missing name Le
Roi Kelston

5. List of elders add 1836
Thomas Pinkey; add 1948
J F Rutherford and A H
Smith; correction 1941
J E instead of J L Wyatt

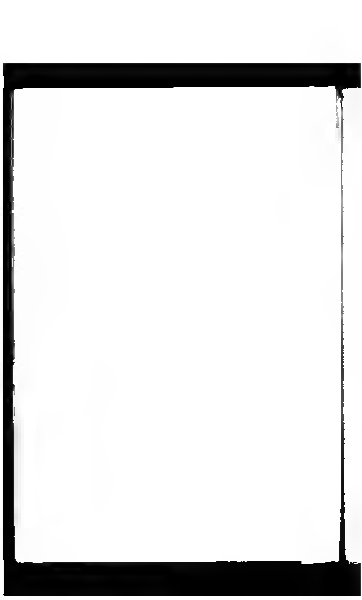
6. Page 105 List of W H S.
presidents add Mrs. J
Hegarty 1953 - 1956

7. Page 131 - Line 3
correction birthdate of
Alexandre Kalen Hargrove
1853 instead of 1835

ERRATA. 1. Page 78 Line 8
should read — September 30, 00s

2. Page 91 Line 38
should read — 1872-73 of Ken Palmer

3. Page 93 Bibliography Line 3
should read — Sin-Syrg



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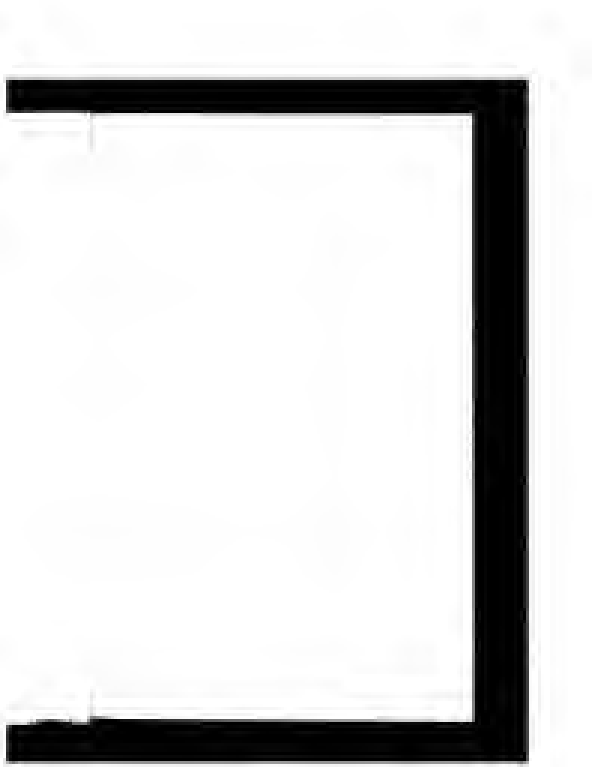

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Medicine Hat, Alberta
On the Occasion of
THE NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY
of the Congregation
1883-1973

OTHER MEMBERS OF HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

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60-year member of St. John's

Mr. McLaren Ewert

Mrs. My (Edna) Smith

Miss Eleanor Mercer

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1979

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PREFACE

Many people, too numerous to mention are responsible for the production of this history of St. John's. On behalf of the Session and Congregation I wish to thank them each and all. In particular however I would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Margaret Bowles, without whose diligence and organizational ability and hard work this book would not have seen the light of day

DONALD C SMITH

TENT TOWN 1883

PILE BRIDGE ACROSS THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER 1883

VILLAGE OF MEDICINE HAT 1884-85
(Presbyterian Church at far right)

1883 - 1973

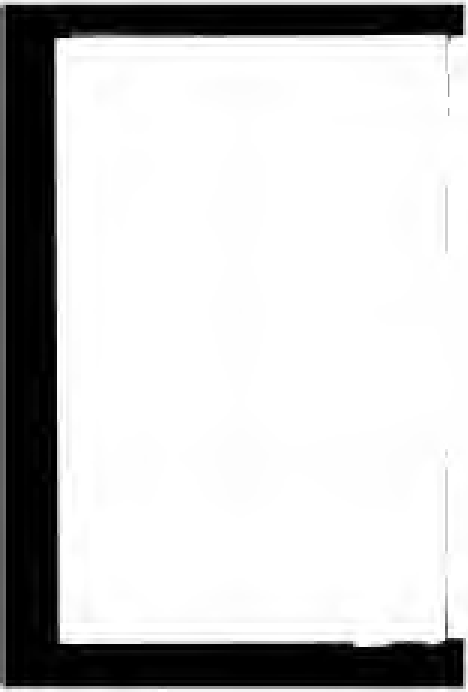
History of St. John's Church

INTRODUCTION

This small book has been compiled to relate as well as possible the history of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta. The record is far from complete due to the fact that minute books and documents covering many years of church history are missing entirely. But the History Committee is most fortunate in the possession of the very final minute books of the Session, Board of Managers and the Sunday School. Since everyone is related centres around the active beginning of the Congregation, these records are invaluable in building up a picture of those first years in our community. The reason for the establishment of this History now, is the forthcoming celebration of the 90th Anniversary of St. John's which will be held on Sunday, June 3, 1973, the exact anniversary date of the first gathering of Presbyterians in the little hamlet of Medicine Hat. At the time of writing, we have long since achieved the status of a city which has become an oasis of beautiful homes and gardens in the bare prairie landscape, but in order to appreciate the foresight and courage of these pioneers who organized our Church, we must look back to the early condition of this area. Settlement on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River

Indians had camped for years on the land we now know as the Flats. Early in 1883 the C.P.R. sent a large crew of men to Medicine Hat to build a temporary bridge across the river, as a construction camp was laid out for them. The need for provisions drew an influx of merchants, but as the townsite had not yet been surveyed, these people were obliged to pitch their tents where they could, easily move them when the streets were laid out. From some time all business was done in tents, then stores and houses were erected as materials were shipped in. The town had no sidewalks, street lights or running water. In those days water carts being used to deliver water at 25c a barrel.

In the spring of 1883, Medicine Hat was only a cluster of tents and shacks, near the site of the railway bridge which was being constructed at that time. The C.P.R. tracks had been laid as far as Dunmore, and building the roadbed down the canyon leading to the Saskatchewan River was rapidly being completed. Until this was finished, the only method of travel was by horseback or on foot.



THE BEGINNING OF A CONGREGATION

Rev. Angus Robertson

On Friday June 1 1883 a traveller from the East arrived in the little town of Medicine Hat in the person of Rev. Angus Robertson who was a graduate of Knox College Toronto and who had been sent West by the Presbyterian Church in May 1883 to do Home Mission work in the Calgary field. He was ordained in Winnipeg on May 29 1883 and continued his journey West with his brother William arriving in Medicine Hat on June 1. The two men spent Saturday going around the town becoming acquainted with the people and they found enough Presbyterians to organize a church service for the next day. The location of a meeting place was their main problem until Mr. G. F. Tupper offered the use of his tent store. So everyone was notified and invitations were extended to all of the residents to attend. Planks were placed on kegs in rows to provide seating arrangements and around the outer of groceries hardware clothing and supplies of all kinds Mr. Robertson conducted the first service in Medicine Hat under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This meeting accomplished two purposes — it made the residents aware of their mutual church affiliations and it encouraged them to hold services from that time on whenever it was possible to do so. During the summer of 83 Rev. G. M. Milligan D.D. of Toronto conducted a service and Mr. Tupper erected a special tent for this purpose. Two other Ministers, Rev. P. Wright and Rev. R. Hamilton each conducted services in the C.P.R. depot. In the fall Mr. C. M. Copeland Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Winnipeg held services in the Brunswick Hotel for three weeks. These meetings helped the Presbyterian families to become acquainted with one another. The Methodists had erected a building in 1883 and our members were extended the privilege of using this building after it was finished. Rev. Mr. Robertson reported to Toronto and Winnipeg headquarters the fact that the Presbyterians held their first services in Medicine Hat on June 3, 1883.

BUILDING A CHURCH

By April of 1884 the Presbyterian members felt that they had a sufficient number to warrant building a church for themselves so on April 23 1884 a public meeting of Presbyterians was held at the store of Mr. George McCuaig at 8:30 p.m. to take into consideration the advisability of erecting a place of worship." A Missionary Mr. David Anderson B.A. had arrived in the village and no doubt his presence encouraged the members to take positive action at that time. Mr. Thomas Tweed was called to the chair with Mr. Sam Archibald acting as Secretary of the meeting. A committee was appointed, composed of Messrs. Tweed, McCuaig, Hargreave, Tuppe and Archibald to take up subscriptions for the erection of a building. The financial aspect of the undertaking must have required great faith and courage on the part of these people who were all struggling to establish their businesses and build homes so that they could send for their families. Statistics from other Church records in Toronto show that Melbourne had twelve Presbyterian members this figure of course did not include adherents

Mr. Anderson was of great assistance in getting the plans explaining that our Church in the East had established a Church and Manse Building Fund with headquarters in Winnipeg to loan to new congregations up to 50% of the cost of new churches. Accordingly the men decided to erect a frame building 20 x 36 the material to be donated as soon as possible. The meeting also discussed the cost of maintaining the Congregation for the summer estimating that $13.00 per week would cover the expenses. They agreed to use the envelope system of giving, and instructed Mr. Russell the Secretary to order 1 000 envelopes. 2 dozen hymn books 6 copies of Harmonized Hymnal and also 50 chairs. The meeting then adjourned to meet one week late. The time Mr. Wm. Cousins acted as Chairman and the first business was the election of a Board of Managers these being

Mr.	J. Hargreave	M.	Sam Porter
Mr.	Geo. McCuaig	M.	D. F. Tuppe
Mr.	Wm. Cousins	M.	Sam Archibald
Mr.	Thomas Tweed		

In the light of historical records, one realizes that the Congregation of 1884 chose wisely and well since all of these men served their Church with unswerving devotion. Several of them lived in Melbourne Hall for the balance of their lives, giving unselfishly of their talents and material wealth to build up the Congregation which they helped to organize.

This meeting voted to let the Building Committee spend the rest of the church and apply to the Church and Manse Building Fund for 50% of the cost. After the meeting adjourned the Board of Man-

agers immediately held their first Board meeting at which time Mr Cousins offered his store on River Street for services until the church was built. The Missionary Mr. Anderson offered to go around to get subscriptions for the running expenses.

In the next month frequent meetings were held these usually being at 7.30 p.m. In the Lansdowne Hotel or at one of the stores. Detailed plans of the church structure were discussed and at first I was decided to have plain rectangular windows with a steeple on the roof. However some of the Managers were strongly in favor of Gothic windows and door which they knew would be more expensive. However when Mr Tweed and Mr. McClung explained that the additional cost would not exceed $20.00 and that Mr. Tweed would get the windows up from Winnipeg by express free of cost. It was decided to obtain the Gothic windows and door but to cut down costs by dispensing with the steeple. The tender of Messrs. McRae and Hawk to erect the church for $125.00 was accepted and Mr. Finlay's price for the lumber was also agreed upon. And so our first church was built with Gothic windows and door but covered with a plain roof — and a debt which was not lifted for fifteen years. A loan was successfully obtained from Winnipeg for $250.00. At the time the Church was under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Manitoba. The site chosen for the building was the exact location of the present church property but the fact that the Presbyterians did not hold title to the land did not seem to worry anybody. It is possible that most of the residents were Squatters until the streets could be surveyed and lots staked out.

First church used as a school

On July 21 1864 it already recorded that the Board met in the new Presbyterian Church. This Episcopal Denomination was extended an invitation to meet in our church free of charge at any time they might need it except on Sunday evenings. A vote of thanks was sent to the Methodist Church for the use of their building while ours was under construction.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Anderson must have been busy rounding up the children of the Congregation because he held an organization meeting of his Sunday School on June 28 1864 even before the roof was finished. The 50 chairs on wedges and an organ appeared on the scene as with hymn books organ and chairs Mr. Anderson was able to conduct a service with some semblance of dignity and order. The first regular Sunday School was held on July 3 with 15 pupils in attendance and a collection of 80c

The Presbyterian Church has always placed great emphasis on education, and this is borne out in a study of the way in which the Sunday School spent their meager collection money. Before they were in operation for three months they purchased 20 books to start a library the next year adding more volumes. The record book contains a complete account of the books taken out and returned by the pupils indicating that at least 60 books were available for the children to read. When one realizes that new settlers could not afford to ship any but the bare necessities to this pioneer settlement one can appreciate the importance of the Sunday School library as these may have been the only books available to the children.

The emphasis on education together with the spirit of generosity so evident in western pioneers was displayed when the Board of Managers entered into an arrangement with the School Board giving the use of the church for public school for all of the pupils in the village. This soon became a source of embarassment and contention due to the fact that members of the Board and Congregation were sometimes acting as Trustees as well. Financial problems and shortage of help (by as many as 75 pupils) created early awkward situations. The first indication that school was actually being held in our church is recorded in the minutes of October 10 1864, when the School Board offered to pay one-half of the expenses of a building at the back of the church to be of wood and seats. Our Board replied that we had no funds for this. Provisions had to be made however for the cold winter in come and Mr. Sam Parkin was paid $5.00 to bank up the church building with earth. We must remember that this building was only a shell with the rafters and shingling exposed on the inside. So on May 17 the Managers arranged to have the interior of the church ceiled with some dry lumber requesting the School Board to dismiss classes for two days while this was being done.

THE PIONEER WOMEN OF ST JOHN'S

Mrs. Wm. Cousins

Mrs. Jas. Harg ave

We have very little knowledge of the women who made up our Congregation in the first year or two but we have great admiration for them as they struggled in the most primitive circumstances to establish comfortable homes for their husbands and children. During the Riel rebellion in 1885 all of the new settlers lived in fear of Indian raids, and it is said that a C.P.R. engine was kept fired up in readiness to evacuate the women and children at Medicine Hat and Calgary. A battalion of soldiers from Halifax was stationed here in tents for the protection of the hamlet but the reasoning of the men as they galloped about on horseback did not add to anyone's peace of mind or sense of security.

We can establish the names of some of the ladies who were here in 83- 84 as they must have been the mothers of Sunday School pupils and we proudly salute these pioneer women of St John's.

Mrs. Wm. Cousins	Mrs. Tom Tweed	Mrs. Allen	Mrs. Walton
Mrs. Drew	Mrs. Blassett	Mrs. McKay	Mrs. Mongsley
Mrs. McCutcheon	Mrs. McPherson	Mrs. Harper	Mrs. McNish
Mrs. Bailey	Mrs. Hargrave	Mrs. Horner	Mrs. Carey

The very first record of these ladies taking an active part in affairs, was on Sept. 9 1884 when they met at the church at 4 p.m. (after school) to organize a committee to get up an entertainment. Again on Oct. 10 1884 a meeting was called to prepare a farewell for Mr. Anderson the Missionary who was leaving up to return to college in Winnipeg. He had helped the Church a great deal during the building program and had been with the people from April 29 to October 1884. These activities of the ladies are typical of women's work for the next twenty years in St. John's.

DEVELOPMENT UNDER OUR EARLY MINISTERS

The next Pastor to minister to the needs of the Congregation was Rev Thomas Davidson M A who arrived from Winooski Conn. in November 1884 and stayed until the following August. He was the Minister who conducted the First two Communion Services for Presbyterians in Medicine Hat, the date of the first being Jan 18 1885. The Communion record book gives the names of 7 members who partook of the elements on that date

Mrs McPherson	Mrs Helen Tweed
Mr Thos. Tweed	Mr James Norquay
Mr Geo McClung	Mrs. J Norquay
Mr James Hargrave	

Mr McClung who was an ordained Elder formerly from Winnipeg assisted Mr. Davidson. The second Communion service was held in July 1885 when 14 members participated their names being —

W T Finlay	Mrs. J Norrie
Mrs. Finlay	Mrs. Lawson
Mrs J Fahie	Miss Sarah Horner
Mr James Horner	

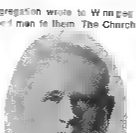
During this period the financial condition of our new Congregation was one of continual worry over money matters. The Board had received a loan of $250.00 from the Church & Manse Building Fund in 1884 but in less than a year their other debts amounted to $200.00 Mr. Finlay's bill for the lumber to line the church in November was an additional $135.[illegible] and at the Board meeting on Feb 16 1885 the members agreed that they should divide the amount equally between themselves to lift the burden from Mr Finlay. Before taking this drastic action however they decided at the same meeting to get up an entertainment to partly pay off the debt the committee to be Messrs McCuaig Tweed Finlay Cousins and Davidson the date for the concert to be March 4th. They must have played to a packed house because they later reported taking in the sum of $40.25. They also got $10.00 for renting the church for Court purposes and a special collection of $7.25. This was all applied on the debt and then seven men each donated $8.30 to wipe out the amount owing to Mr. Finlay for the lumber.

Abuse of the building by the school was a continual worry and it became so bad that in April 1885 the Board sent a notice to the School Trustees that "unless they engage a responsible person to put the church in perfect order on Saturday for Sabbath services the Board will refuse them the use of the building.

Rev Mr Davidson planned to leave Medicine Hat by Aug 22 1885 to visit Scotland and the Board owed him $49.16 arrears of salary. Since the finances of the Church were at a low ebb the Managers were obliged to go out and collect money to pay him

ARRIVAL OF REV. JAMES HERALD

After Mr Davidson left the Congregation wrote to Winnipeg requesting the office there to send a good man to them. The Church at Minnedosa was also without a Minister and the name of Rev James Herald B.A. P.D. was suggested for both Congregations. Dr Gordon in Winnipeg cast the deciding vote in favor of Medicine Hat. So in November 1885 the Rev Mr. Herald came to minister to the Congregation. He was the first pastor who had a family so it immediately became necessary for the Congregation to provide a Manse.



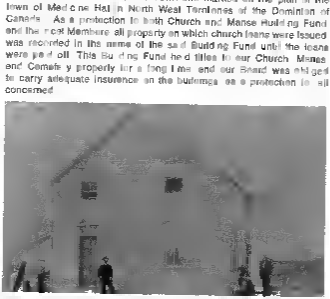
Rev James Herald

The Gas Coal Company owned a building adjacent to the railroad bridge which had been used for an office so the Board offered on November 1885 to buy it for $600.00. There was an urgent need for this matter to be settled as Mr Herald's family would soon arrive in the village to live. Mr Gas replied by telegram on Nov 30 that he would sell the building for $600.00 but advised that he did not hold title to the land on which it stood and would not be responsible for same. The Board agreed to purchase the building sent Mr Gall $100.00 in cash and the Managers note for 30 days for the balance until a loan of $400.00 could be obtained from the Church & Manse Building Fund. This was typical of the financial picture for several years except that the debts got bigger and bigger.

The Manse stood near the railway bridge for the next 14 years. When it was eventually moved over beside the church the extensive repairs done on it indicate that it was a very poor structure. However, it was a frame house and it became home to the Herald family during the five years that they occupied it. The Sunday School record has a notation in ink on Dec. 20 1885 saying "Rev. Herald's family arrived today" thus showing the excitement in the Congregation over this happy event.

Now that a permanent Minister had come to reside in the village the church members must have felt a new sense of security and the Board of Managers was able to arrange with the Board of Missions in Toronto for assistance in payment of Mr. Herald's stipend. St. John's was a *Mission Charge* for the next 14 years, in 1885 receiving $300.00 toward the salary of $850.00. This must have been a great help to the members as their debts grew larger as the years went by. The communicant membership still numbered only 15 in 1885 as the financial problems are quite understandable.

The land on which our church building stands was received as a gift from the North West Land Company on Jan. 14 1886, and our Board of Managers extended sincere vote of thanks to this Company for this very fine contribution to the work of Presbyterian am in Medicine Hat. Mr. Tweed and Mr. Finlay were instructed to negotiate the transfer of the deed which was to be registered in Regina. It was received on May 11 1886 and we are the fortunate possessors of this original document. It was made out to: The Board of Management Church & Manse Building Fund Presbyterian Church which received the 11 for the sum of $1.00 in lots numbers 37, 38, 39 and 40 in Block 5, as laid down and marked on the plan of the town of Medicine Hat in North West Territories of the Dominion of Canada. As a protection to both Church and Manse Building Fund and the most Members all property on which church loans were issued was recorded in the name of the said Building Fund until the loans were paid off. This Building Fund held titles to our Church, Manse and Cemetery property for a long time and our Board was obliged to carry adequate insurance on the buildings as a protection to all concerned.



The Old Manse

The Presbyterian Church has always been noted for its excellent structure of democratic government first with General Assembly down to Synod then Presbytery then the local Congregation. The Church officers in Eastern Canada must have been hard pressed to keep up with the expansion in the West during the 80s and 90s. That is evident in the official church records which show that Medicine Hat belonged to four different Presbyteries from 1883. 1888 We were first included in the Presbytery of Manitoba which was described by one Church historian as the biggest Presbytery in the world extending from the Manitoba boundary to the Rocky Mountains and North to the Arctic Ocean. We were then included in

Presbytery of Brandon — March 31 1885
Presbytery of Regina — March 31 1886
Presbytery of Calgary — Dec. 31 1887

There were only three Presbyterian churches organized in all of what is now known as Alberta in 1887 these being one in Edmonton with 42 Members, Knox in Calgary with 83 Members and Medicine Hat with 46

The influence of Rev. Mr. Hamilton's ministry in the village immediately became apparent when we learn of the growth and activities of the Congregation. This Herald was gradually disturbed however when they met on July 5 1886 to consider a letter notifying them that the Home Mission Board was now reducing the grant from $400.00 to $200.00. The Board felt that Home Missions should stand by their agreement until expired (date not known). Minutes state that the following resolution was adopted. A neat blank space one-third of a page in length in the minute book gives us no clue as to the resolution and at the next meeting when the minutes were read they were not accepted because the motion was lacking. The Board is responsible for historical perfection as well as financial ones! (Toronto records show that we received only $200.00 per year so perhaps the resolution was never sent)

During the time that our Church had been without a resident minister no children had been baptized but shortly after Mr. Herald arrived he began to perform these duties, and baptismal records were set up. It is interesting to note the baptisms performed in 1886 —

Feb. 5. 1886 — John Frederick Finlay son of Wm. and Catherine Finlay
July 4. 1886 — Isabella MacDonald Cousins, daughter of Wm. and Jessie Cousins
Sept. 12. 1886 — James Herald Sage son of Rosella and Lillian Sage.
Sept. 2. 1886 — Orvill Eadrich Horne son of James and Margaret Horne
Nov. 7. 1886 — Mary Jane McCutcheon daughter of Robt. and Angelik McCutcheon
Nov. 28. 1886 — Catherine Michelle daughter of Alexander and Rachel Mehlen.

First recorded Marriage:— June 28. 1886

Robert Nearing — age 28 years
Annie Goldsmith — age 23 years
Witnesses John & Almeda Rauck.

THE FIRST ORDINATION OF ELDERS

In a congregation that is accustomed to being governed by a Session and Board of Managers, it is puzzling to understand how both the Minister and Congregation functioned without a Session for over two years. However we can see that up to this time neither the temporary minister or members themselves had become sufficiently acquainted with each other to be able to select men of the spiritual qualities needed for the heavy responsibilities of forming the first Session of a new church But by the time Mr. Herald had lived in the village for a few months he felt that the time was ripe for electing Elders.

It will be noted that although the church group was organized in April 1884, and a Sunday School started that same summer it was not until August 22 1885, that the members met to elect Elders. Rev. James Herald conducting the meeting. All procedures of the Presbyterian Church being complied with the following gentlemen were elected as Elders

Mr Thomas Tweed
Mr William Crawford
Mr George McCuaig
Mr Wm Thomas Finlay
Mr James Hargreave

Ordination took place after the evening service on Sept 12 1885, and Mr George McCuaig who had been ordained as an Elder in Winnipeg was duly inducted to the same office in Medicine Hat. Mr McCuaig was an ardent worker both in the Church and the Sunday School but after a few years, he moved to the Coast (Recent efforts to learn more of his later years have been fruitless) The other four original Elders remained in office for many years proving true to the trust and responsibility laid upon them by a new Congregation

At the first meeting of the Session Mr William Cousins was appointed as Clerk of Session which position he held almost continuously for 32 years. The Session agreed to start weekly prayer meetings on Wednesday nights

It was an historic occasion when the first Communion service arranged by our own Session was held in the Presbyter an Church on October 13 1886 one month after the ordination of Elders. We feel that it is worthy of note to record the names of those 29 persons who received tokens at this session as this was the nucleus of our Congregation in those early years

Mr. James Hannar
Miss Sarah Hannar
Mr. James Hargreave
Mr. William Cousins
Mr. James Mumpsey
Mrs. Mumpsey
Mr. Thos. Tweed
Mrs. Tweed
Mrs. Fisher
Mr. Neil McCuaig
Mr R. Sage
Mrs. Sage
Mrs. Meade
Mr. Heard
Mr. W. T. Finlay
Mrs. Finlay
Mrs. Leys
Mrs. Hannar
Mrs. Small
Mrs. Sussil
Mr. Bull
Mrs. Bull
Mrs. McNab
Mrs. Hargreave

FIRST ELDERS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH
ORDINATION SERVICE SEPTEMBER 12, 1886

Mr William Cousins

Mr James Hodgkin

Mr Thomas Fahey

Mr Thomas Tweed

Mr George McCuaig

By Profession of Faith

Mrs Cousins
Mrs Ferguson
Mr Neil McCutcheon

Mrs Spencer
Mrs. Miller

THE BEGINNING OF HILLSIDE CEMETERY

We realize that death and sorrow often touched the little village and all of the Presbyterian Congregation mourned with Mr. and Mrs. James Hargrave when their little son Cecil died in November 1898 aged two years nine months.

There were at least two cemeteries in the town at that time one of them extending up Sixth Avenue from the present A.M.A. building to Aberdeen and Belfast Streets. Everyone realized that the location was too close to town and that a new site would have to be chosen. Our Board of Managers was aware that Mr. Hargrave wanted his son's body interred in a permanent spot and not moved at a later time so the members met hastily on Sunday evening to discuss a new but permanent location for a cemetery. A report of the meeting was printed in the newspaper and we find the decision listed as being somewhat conflicting. However little Cecil Hargrave was buried on Tuesday afternoon, at a spot in the centre of the present Hillside Cemetery. It is a beautifully kept park of trees, shrubs and green lawns today, but on that November day it was a bleak, lonely place on the prairie about two miles south-west of Medicine Hat just off the trail that led to Fort Macleod.

In Memory of
CECIL E. SHEPPARD
son of
JAMES and ALEXANDRA
HARGRAVE
Died Nov. 7 1898
Aged 2 Years and 9 Months
Of Such Is The Kingdom Of Heaven

PROGRESS TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1890

As the winter of 1886-87 began the Board of Managers again encountered difficulties with the School Board. The trekking in of mud and snow by the pupils reduced the church building to an unbearable state. Then on November 10 1886 the Church Board held a special meeting at which time they passed a motion to notify the School Trustees to find another building. Motion carried unanimously! Apparently the matter was smoothed over with the offer by the School Board to pay $15.00 per month rent, retroactive to October 1886. This was accepted and school continued to be held in our church.

The Session held regular meetings and one year after the Elders had been elected, Mr. Thomas Tweed was appointed as Representative Elder he being the first to hold that office. In March 1888 our Church was part of the Calgary Presbytery and notice was received from Rev. Mr. Herdman, Clerk of Presbytery, that Mr. Herald and Mr. Tweed were appointed as Commissioners to the General Assembly in Halifax in June 1888. This was a great honor to be extended to our Session. Also Mr. Tweed was appointed to represent the Presbytery at the Synod meeting in Brandon in May. We have no record of whether or not they attended these meetings. In December the Session revised the Communion Roll and it was found that 81 members had moved away and there were 43 remaining at the end of 1888.

The Medicine Hat School District had become sufficiently organized to start construction of a school building and Toronto Street School was completed by the end of 1888. Our Church had had a few more problems with them as the rent got in arrears for a total of $190.00. In February 1889 when the school vacated in January 1889 we had to settle by arbitration. The annual delegation for the stove in the church and the building at the rear both of which had been jointly owned. Apparently the school lacked enough seats in their new premises at Toronto Street School because we voted to rent chairs to them for $2.00 per week for as long as needed. This opened the record of a definite but important service rendered to the entire community by the Presbyterian Congregation.

St. John's members have always been missionary-minded as evidenced both by the substantial donations for the Budget as well as by the 70-year history of the activities of the W.M.S. and the Guilds. Ours was a Mission Church from 1885 to 1888 receiving for 14 years assistance for the minister's salary during that time.

The members realized that they were very dependent on the Home Mission Board to keep the Congregation going so in spite of the fact that they always had debts in face they tried to support the outreach of the Church as best they could All of Western Canada was being settled very rapidly and new Congregations were being formed across the Prairies This required colleges to the training of ministers and missionaries, supervision of the work in the field and many other responsibilities, so all of these projects were entitled Schemes of the Church That word Schemes strikes a jarring note on the ears of members 80 years later as it has come to represent something dubious or questionable but in 1890 it held the original meaning of plans We are proud to learn that St Johns members contributed what little they could to the support of this work On October 5 1897 the Session agreed that they should help on this matter and in March 1898 they decided that Mr Herald should explain from the pulpit about the pipe asking for contributions and that these should be returned on Communion Sundays It is recorded that in the year 1892 special collections were taken up as follows

General Assembly	$ 2.90	Home Missions	$ 5.10
Montreal College	$ 7.10	Presbytery Fund	$11.00
Augmentation Fund	$19.60	Synod	$ 3.00
		Total	$50.80

For many years now the term Budget had applied to the various aspects of General Assembly work.

In 1889 the Medicine Hat Hospital was erected and in August was opened the medical men ceremony being performed by our minister Rev Mr Herald Members of the Hospital Board included several members of our Church Messrs McCraig Finlay Cousins Tweed and Rev Mr Herald. This Hospital was the only one west of Winnipeg for some years and rendered great service to the people of the Western Plains In 1890 Rev Angus Robertson the Missionary who had conducted the first Presbyterian service in Medicine Hat on June 3 1883 was brought to our Hospital very ill with fever He had spent the intervening years as a Missionary in lumber camps in British Columbia While at Donald B.C. he took ill and was rushed to Medicine Hat where he died in August 1890

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FRAME CHURCH BUILDING

After the School vacated the church premises at the end of 1896, the Presbyterians must have heaved a sigh of relief and turned eagerly to the work of making permanent and worthwhile improvements to the interior of the building which had seen such hard usage for five years The Managers must have acquired paws because at their meeting on Jan 25 1899 they instructed Mr Sage to rent the chairs in the School for $2.00 per week for as long as needed. At a

further meeting on Jan 31 they appointed a Committee of Messrs McCurdy Tweed and Herald with power to engage a contractor to move the church building further over on the lot also to hire a carpenter and painter to do the necessary work No further minutes were recorded for over a year but the Session minutes of November 12 1888 state that the Session "agreed that after the church was re-opened they meet in the church"

Proof that an addition was built at the back of the church is shown in a small picture of the church and the manse side by side in which can be seen the addition with a "Gothic" window showing Also, a vestibule was built on to the front, and there is a picture of the interior of the church which shows an archway with the depth of the addition giving a place for the choir and the pulpit

In the fall of 1890 a cellar was dug under the church and a furnace was installed so the Congregation must have enjoyed greater comfort from that time on but it was not until 1897 that storm windows were purchased at a cost of $40.00 The late Mrs A C Hawthorne used to tell an amusing story about those windows Shortly after her marriage Mr Morrow the minister came to call on a hot July day and he was wearing his coonskin cap with the earflaps down He commented that she was perhaps astonished to see his headgear but explained that he had issued an ultimatum to the Managers that he was going to wear that cap until they removed the storm windows from the church for the summer!

Frame Church and Manse

Interior Frame Church

Rev James Herald

Mrs. James Herald

Jessie Herald
married John Ewart

TRIBUTE TO REV. MR. HERALD

The entire Congregation was saddened by the death of their Minister Rev Mr Herald from the flu on March 4 1939 He had come to Medicine Hat in November of 1935 with his wife and daughter Jessie During his pastorate of almost five years he had built St. John s from a weak group of people into a strong Congregation The first Session was elected after he came and the Elders were instructed and guided in their duties by him Official records tell us that he was just ahead to be inducted into the pastoral charge of Medicine Hat when he was removed by death

The members and adherents erected a marble tablet placing it in the Sanctuary in recognition of the faithful services of their beloved Pastor as an affectionate tribute to his memory

ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THIS CHURCH
TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REV JAMES HERALD
THEIR BELOVED PASTOR
WHO DIED MARCH 4 1890 AGED 68 YEARS.
REVERED AND RESPECTED BY ALL.
BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD

As a further tribute to the esteem in which the Herald family was held the Session at their meeting on May 12 1890 passed a motion that the front pews on the right side of the church be reserved for the Herald family Jessie, the daughter of Rev and Mrs Herald married Mr John Ewert a man who was a great church worker a member of the Board of Managers, and an active business man in the community. In 1893 he took his family to California in search of a better climate for himself but he died there of tuberculosis a short time later. Mrs Ewert returned to Medicine Hat where she gave unstintingly of her many talents in the work of St John's. She played the organ taught Sunday School acted as President of the Ladies Aid for many years and eventually became Matron of the Manse when she married the Rev James Morrow in 1913. She was one of the truly remarkable pioneers of St John's, having arrived in Medicine Hat in December 1886. She lived to the good age of 82 years always maintaining her interest and love for St John's. She had raised her five children here McLaren and Jacqueline both of whom are still living here in 1973 McLaren is a retired Elder of the Presbyterian Church Jacqueline married Mr H O Duggan and both she and her husband gave years of their time and musical ability as devoted members of St John's choir

REV. A J MACLEOD

St John's was now left without a pastor as steps had to be taken to call a minister. There is no record of the Session's course of action but two items were gleaned from the newspaper, The Times, of Thursday April 17 1890 The first one states Rev Mr Morrison arrived yesterday on No 1 and he will occupy the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church for the next two Sundays. Then the most important item noted, namely A call to Rev Mr MacLeod of Banff is being unanimously signed by the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church here" So Rev Angus J MacLeod B A came in May 1890, and ministered to the Congregation until March 1891 when he resigned his charge to take the position of Principal of the Indian School at Regina. During his brief ministry the work in St

John e received a new impetus

During Mr Herald's time and for part of Mr MacLeod's time the coal mines were in operation at Stair (north-west of Redcliff) so services were occasionally given at this point as well as at Dunmore, seven miles east of here

Realizing that the Members of 1973 would like to know when and how the name "St John's" came to be used the Historical Committee made every effort to obtain this information. The Session minute book records the name on Sept 10 1851 in copying a Presbytery report which states "the St John's (Medicine Hat)" The title was not used again until Aug 2 1864 The Board of Managers minutes first used the name in recording the annual meeting of January 1883

Since none of this information answered our queries adequately we wrote to the Archivist of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who reported that the name "St John's" was first used in the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly for 1891 the statistics of which cover the previous year So we conclude that the name "St John's Presbyterian Church Medicine Hat" came into use in 1890 but how it was chosen is not known

A WELL ESTABLISHED CHURCH BY 1895

Rev Charles Stephen

In the beginning of April 1891 Rev Charles Stephen B.A., B.D. came immediately on the departure of Mr MacLeod for the purpose of giving supply for a short time but after a period of six weeks he was called to become the Minister. He was inducted and ordained on the first day of June 1891.

This was the first and notice that had taken place in connection with any of the Congregations, states Mr Stephen in his short history.

Our village was growing slowly and the Congregation became a little stronger as the years went by. At the close of 1890 the membership stood at 50 but even so the finances continue to be a problem. The minutes of June 29 1890 state that the Managers were to pay $5.00 for the Record which is the first mention of our church periodical and again in August 1891 the Session purchased 10 extra copies of the Record for the Congregation at Dunmore. The readers today should realize that the pastorate at Dunmore required a good deal of time and endurence on the part of our Ministers who had to have a horse at their disposal to pull the rig or cutter up the steep hill on to the prairie and to travel the seven miles to the village on prairie trails. A few good warm buffalo robes must have been part of the needed equipment in those days, in winter.

Many people are unaware of the fact but St. John's is one of the very few Congregations that have always served grape juice at the Communion service. No one knew where this custom originated until the discovery was made in the minutes of Session dated Aug 1 1892 when it was recorded that all the use of fermented wine would keep one Communion card away from the service therefore I was agreed that a supply of unfermented wine (grape juice) be purchased. The custom has been observed in 58 years, until recently when the Session of 1971 decided to serve communion wine but also include grape juice in the centre of each of the trays, for use by the Congregation.

FORMATION OF THE LADIES' AID

The first mention of a Ladies Aid was in October 1890 when it was stated that the Ladies Aid gave $81.06 toward the cost of painting the Manse. Mr Stephen who ministered to the Congregation from 1881 to 1895 in his brief history gave special mention to the great assistance of the Ladies Aid "during the past 5 years" so apparently they were organized in the year 1890. Each year at the annual church meetings a glowing tribute was always paid to the ladies for the tremendous help given to the Congregation. Unfortunately the financial burden assumed great proportions in these early years as evidenced in these details.

In September 1895 when Mr Stephen left since ours was a Mission Church a representative of the Presbytery visited the Congregation to look into its finances. The debt then stood at $800.00 and handling the finances looked like a first class juggling act. The Board owed a note to one member for $214.00, to a second for $264.00, she to a third for $120.00. The very next month they borrowed another $120.00 from the second member to pay the third. And so it went.

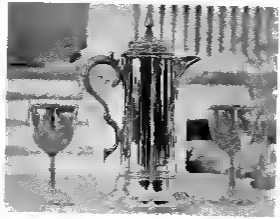
ST JOHN'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Although we are most fortunate in having the earliest minute books of both Session and Managers, there is a great lack of concise information, as the accounts of annual meetings rel only the titles of reports given and none of the contents which would be so meaningful to the Historical Committee years later. However we do have one copy of a tiny pamphlet entitled Operations of the Church and its Associations for 1883". Since this date completes exactly the first 10-year period of St. John's history she growth it is invaluable to all of us to see how much the Church had progressed during that time. The first two pages list the weekly givings of 45 members and adherents, these amounts ranging from a high of $1.00 (given by only three people) down to 5c per week contributed by seven. The latter group includes Thomas, William, Hiram and Melrose Hargrave children of Mr. and Mrs. James Hargrave also Isabelle Cousins daughter of the William Cousins family. The majority of adults gave 10c a week. The Treasurer's Report shows that they started the year with a debt of $1038.73. Total receipts were $1598.92. But the year ended with a debt of $802.72 including arrears owing to the minister of $256.33. The Sunday School had done well spending about $70.00 on papers and replenishing their library. The Ladies Aid had made $343.65 which included the proceeds of a Mission Social on Aug 29 of $41.85. The expenditures for the rent of the manse at $5.00 and the fire grill on same at $7.00 but what a treat that must have been for everyone. The Ladies ended the year with a balance of 5c having given the Managers $315.89.

The number of families in the Congregation is listed at 42 there having been a gain of 5 and a loss of 5. 21 members took the Record there had been 16 baptisms in the list of weekly activities we note the services were being held at Dunmore every Sunday afternoon. Even though they also faced a large debt the members had contributed $83.35 for the Schemes of the Church thus exhibiting their concern for the Mission outreach of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1953

Minister — Rev. Charles Stephen, M.A.
Rep. Elder — Wm. T. Finley, J.P.
Session Clerk — Wm. Cousins
Elders — W. Cousins, J. Hargrave, W. T. Finley
T. Tweed, M.L.A., J. Young
Managers — W. T. Finley, Chairman
J. Hargrave, Sec. H. Stewart, Treas.
T. Tweed, J. F. Fisher, P. Robertson
Organist — Miss Wetherald
Caretaker — Mr. J. Norquay
Sabbath School — Superintendent — Mr. W. T. Finley
Teachers — Miss Black, Miss Porter, Miss Wetherald
Miss M. Mitchell, Mr. W. T. Finley
Bible Class — Teacher — Rev. Chas. Stephen
Ladies Aid — President — Mrs. J. H. Spencer
Vice-President — Mrs. F. Robertson
Treasurer — Miss M. Mitchell
Secretary — Mrs. John Ewart



"Communion Service

BEGINNING OF REV. J. W. MORROW'S MINISTRY

Rev. J. W. Morrow

Following Rev. Mr. Staph en's departure in 1895, the Church was served for a few months by Rev. J. A. Jaffary and then Rev. J. W. Morrow came in June 1896 and ministered to the Congregation for 22 years. He was a graduate of Dublin and Princeton Universities who had been engaged in missionary work near Calgary and Wetaskiwin. Mr. Morrow was one of the most colorful and unique persons to live in Medicine Hat. He was blunt, outspoken, careless in manners and dress, but he had a great understanding of human nature. After he drew large Congregations to hear him preach during the years that he occupied St. John's pulpit. He tried to hide his generosity, but it became a well-known fact that he was always giving to the poor of the community and he did this in an unobtrusive way. Gladys McDougall Bannan tells a story about Mr. Morrow dropping in to call on her mother one day. A tea party was in progress and he went in to join the ladies wearing his big coonskin coat, which he hadn't bothered to remove. When he sat down to have tea, he gave a sudden exclamation, and the ladies discovered that he had half a dozen fresh eggs in his coat pocket. Planning to take them to a poor family, he had put them in his pocket, not wishing to be seen by the neighbors carrying a bag into the house. Mrs. McDougall was obliged to help clean out the coat pocket before he left.

Mr. Morrow had a wide acquaintance among the rural residents of the area as well as those in the city. He often visited his parishioners and if the men were busy working, he took off his coat to help with whatever was being done. He had a great interest in horses, including race horses, attending Stampedes and races that were held at such places as Walsh and Irvine in the early days.

The scope of the area which Mr. Morrow served during the first ten years of his ministry here can easily be discerned in an

excerpt from a letter which he wrote to Rev. Hugh McKellar, author of Presbyterian Pioneer Ministers, in which he said: "I had charge of the whole district from Medicine Hat west as far as Gleichen and east as far as Swift Current taking communion and baptisms everywhere except Maple Creek along until 1903."

One of the most important fields of work in any congregation is that among the young people. At early record books are missing but we have brief references to the existence of such groups in St. John's. Mr. Stephen reported that the Christian Endeavour Society had been formed and that great things were expected of it in upholding the ministry of the Word and in carrying out the practical work pertaining to the welfare of the Church. The group grew, enlarged and stimulated the spiritual life of our young people for a good many years. Three other groups were mentioned in the 90s.

1. A Young People's Mission Society organized in 1893.
2. A "Wide-Awake Society" formed $15.00 in 1896.
3. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society was formed.

By 1899 the Church was free of debt for the first time, and became a self-supporting Congregation, which indicates a strong financial church group.

During all of these years the Manse had stood over near the railroad bridge as the members decided that it was time to move the building on to the church property. On Jan. 3, 1898 tenders were received for moving the Manse and that of Mr. Wm. Tom was accepted. In March a foundation was put under the building and the interior was to be lathed and plastered. In August 1898 Mr. J. C. Colter was paid $240.00 for the plastering and Mr. H. C. Yuill $450.00 for the carpenter work. Mr. Morrow, who had been Minister at St. John's since 1896, was a bachelor. As he lived in rented rooms rather than in the Manse it was rented out. After the big expense of remodelling Mr. Morrow stated that he wanted all of the manse rent money, $15.00 per month, applied on the debt for repairs.

In the fall of 1898 a fence was built around the church property and the fence and Manse were painted — cost $143.17. So it was the years before the Church membership could look with any amount of pride at the property. However they were no more than free of debt when they began talking about a new church building.

BUILDING THE BRICK CHURCH IN 1902

At the annual congregational meeting on March 2 1900 a motion was made to establish a Building Fund. This was a courageous decision to be made by a group of only 79 members.

We seldom hear of the ladies taking part in meetings at the Church but at the annual meeting on March 7, 1901, a motion was

made by Mrs. Blatchford seconded by Mrs. Ewart that the Managers take up a subscription for the purpose of building a new church Motion carried.

So we came to the time of building the present brick church There are no church records of architects, plans or estimates and we can only conclude that the men were all too busy to write it all down We do know that a congregational meeting was held on July 8 1902 at which time the former Board of Trustees was dissolved and a new Board appointed for the purpose of holding the Church property for St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat these being

Mr James Hargrave	Mr Wm Cousens
Mr T. Tweed	Mr W T Finlay
Mr Robert Mitchell	Mr A. Beveridge

On August 25 they set the date for the opening of the new church for Sept 21 1902

We are indebted to the weekly edition of the Medicine Hat News of Sept 25 1902 for an excellent account of the great occasion which took place on Sunday Sept 21 1902 when all members of St. John's attended the opening of their beautiful new church A detailed description of the building which is so familiar to us 70 years later is seen through the eyes of a reporter as follows

"The building is 84 feet long and approximately 42 feet wide constructed of Medicine Hat sandstone and red brick, the stone walls being 24" thick and the brick walls 16" thick The front entrance has stairs leading up on each side to the Sanctuary and balcony The pews are made of ash wood and the pew ends of solid oak there being seating accommodation for 450 people. At the north end there is a vestry at one side and a choir room at the other each with a set of outside stairs. The basement ceiling is 12 high and the Sanctuary 28 and arched The windows are of cathedral glass and leaded. There is a tower 72' high at the south west corner

The stone brick and plastering were done by Charles Purmal carpentry finishing was painting by Watson and McInnes the two furnaces by Williamson & Rae and the plans were prepared by Mr Lang

The Building Committee was composed of Messrs Tweed Hargreave Mc Cousens Mitchell and Beveridge The furnishings were provided by the Ladies Aid and the church and furnishings will cost about $15,000.00.

The first service was held at 11 a m on September 21 1902 with our own minister Mr. Morrow assisted by Dr. Kilpatrick of Wuniepeg Rev. Mr. Hemmeu of Calgary and Rev Mr McKillop of Leth bridge The opening hymn gave all of the members an opportunity to join in expressing their collective sentiments in the words—

Within these walls may Peace abound
May all our hearts in one agree
Where brethren meet where Christ is found
May Peace and concord ever be.

Dr Kilpatrick performed the Dedicat on Ceremony and then preached a sermon of great encouragement and instruct on to the Congregation. At three o clock Mr Henderson and Mr McKelvie spoke and in the evening the church was crowded to the doors to hear a further message from Dr Kilpatrick. On Monday evening the Ladies A d served tea in the basement which was crowded for two hours then all adjourned to the Sanctuary for a service addressed by Dr Kilpatrick, Mr Morrow and the Baptist minister Mr Croft.

The B ck Church 1902

Our history is surely enriched by this full account of our church. We would l ke to point out, that in 1901 after Mrs. Fitzchford and Mrs. Ewart met a the meet ng to take up subscr ptions for a new church the gr ngs must have been bount ful because the va ue of the new church w s placed at $15,000.00 and yet the debt listed at the end of 1902 was only $5 000.00.

The old frame church building was sold to the Medicine Hat School District for $150.00 and was moved down to Montreal Street School grounds where it was used as a cottage school for a long time. So the building erected by the Presbyterians in 1894 and used by the School District for five years was again occupied by Medicine Hat pupils after 1902.

We were impressed by the statement in the newspaper that the furnishings in the new church were supplied by the Ladies Aid. This must have required a concentrated effort on the part of all of the ladies to raise such an amount of money. The only record we have of any of their projects is one reported in the News on Thursday Aug. 7, 1902 a few weeks before the opening of the new building. The Ice Cream Social held Thursday evening, in the Skating Rink by the Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church was well attended and successful, $34.00 being realized. The Ladies Aid desire to thank the St. Barnabas Managers for loan of chairs, Rink Co. for loan of Rink, the Citizens Band for musical program, and Watson & Hill for drayage of chairs.

We can well imagine the happiness and optimism of all of our Presbyterian members as they expanded their activities in the spacious new quarters of the brick church. In a young western community the enrolment of 138 was considered very up-to-date and entirely suitable to the needs. The community was growing quickly as evidenced by the fact that Medicine Hat was incorporated as a town in 1900 with a population of 1,670 during Mr. Finlay's term as Mayor while in 1906 it achieved the status of a city with a population of 5,020. The increase in population was quickly reflected in the membership statistics of St. John's during that period as follows:

1901	90 Members
1903	134 Members
1908	223 Members

After the new building was completed the Managers probably thought that they could relax for a few years but found that the changes rapidly taking place in the town meant adapting to a new situation. Medicine Hat suddenly discovered the potential that lay in the great gas fields under the city so the Councilmen proceeded to develop this natural resource that had lain untapped until 1902. The coal burning furnaces in the new church were converted to gas and in May 1905, the Board members met at a special meeting when they decided: In light the church with gas as soon as possible the secretary to write and get catalogues of articles required for lighting. In November they gave Mr. Watson permission to cut a hole in the ceiling above the balcony to allow the putting in of gas pipes for the lights.

Vandalism is not a problem confined to the present generation.

as it is noted that in 1905, some of the basement windows along the Fifth Avenue side of the church had been broken. The Board decided that the only solution to the problem would be to replace the glass then cover it with heavy wire screening. So both items were ordered from Winnipeg and the windows have been protected ever since.

SYNOD AFFILIATION

Increased population affected not only our town but the entire country as well, but Alberta did not become a province until 1905. We find that our church government reflected the province's structure. St. John's had become a part of Calgary Presbytery when it was formed in 1887. Then in 1900 that Presbytery was transferred from the Synod of Manitoba and included in the Synod of British Columbia. It was not until 1906 that the Synod of Alberta was formed, being made up of:

Calgary Presbytery	(1887)
Edmonton Presbytery	(1895)
Macleod Presbytery	(1904)

St. John's remained in Calgary Presbytery until 1914 when the Medicine Hat Presbytery was organized. There have been several changes since then, but finally in 1968, Macleod and Calgary united to form the Calgary-Macleod Presbytery.

CROSSING THE RIVER

Members of our church today give no thought to the problems of those who lived on the north side of the river years ago. From the time that people came to live in Medicine Hat, the difficulty of crossing the Saskatchewan river was time-consuming and sometimes awkward. When the C.P.R. built the pile bridge many people settled in the village so it immediately became necessary to obtain a ferry for travellers, teams and equipment to be transported from one shore to the other. The landing for the ferry was immediately west of the present library, with the Macleod trail leading directly down to that spot on the river bank. So for 24 years the ferry plied back and forth as long as the river was free of ice.

In those days, when winter arrived, the river froze solid and residents travelled safely across whenever they chose. But there was always a short period of time when the ice was forming, that the ferry could not run, nor was it safe for people to venture across.

Children of every generation are always ready to take a calculated risk, and the youngsters of 1900 were no exception. Mr. Carl Hargrave relates a story about crossing the river one November day that makes the reader shudder at the thought of what might have happened. Carl remembers vividly the time when he and his brothers

and sisters decided to go over to town in spite of the fact that the ferry was tied up because the ice was forming on the river. The children trooped down to the shore who viewed the situation. Jack picked up several good sized stones and carrying them he started gingerly out on to the ice the other children straggling behind. He would toss a stone forward and when the ice held they all walked in that direction. Another stone would be tossed — if the ice cracked they tried a different angle so that manner gradually proceeding across the river. Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave were at home blissfully unaware of the precarious expedition on which their children were embarked.

It must have been a wonderful occasion for parents as well as residents of Medicine Hat when the traffic bridge was opened in 1907 and people were free to cross the river at any time or season. The bridge was named for Mr. W. T. Finlay who was the first Representative for the Medicine Hat Riding at Edmonton in 1905 and also the first Minister of Agriculture. He was one of the organizers of St. John's Congregation in 1883 and one of the first Elders of our Church in 1888.

We are happy to report that every one of the Hargrave children who crossed the ice that day lived a good long life span. Carl living with us in 1973 to reminisce with his contemporary, McLaren Ewart and other members of the Historical Committee.

KNOX AND RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

It is not surprising that a second Presbyterian Church soon made its appearance. The early history of Knox Presbyterian Church states that a "Mission was started by Rev. Mr. McLaren in 1904 and named the "East End Presbyterian Mission with services held in the homes of E. D. Bentley and J. McNally. It was not until November of 1906 that Rev. Mr. Herdman, secretary of Presbytery from Calgary visited our Session to discuss the possibility of starting a new Congregation in the south-east district. Our Session was quite opposed to this but appointed Mr. Cousins to attend Presbytery meeting in Calgary to present our views. The Presbytery nonetheless ruled in the matter, however the people in the east area of town felt that there was a need for a church there. So they proceeded to secure an old building on Allowance Avenue which they used naming it the Knox Presbyterian Church. Mr. McLaren who Mr. Heach served the Congregation for several years, and by 1912 the membership of the Sunday School numbered 310 pupils requiring three relays to accommodate all of the children. We must remember that these were not the days of paved streets who pennant sidewalks or of two cars in a garage. Every person walked wherever he went, so the cliff Knox Church rendered a greatly needed service to the area which it served. A few children of St. John's members attended the Sunday

School there Sam and Ben Goldie Roy John and Fred Faulkner Margaret Lyle and Jean Bain Anne Lyle and Margaret Wyett Isabel Patterson Meaghan and Kathy Begg McKay

Another little Sunday School was started over on Riverside this one being held in a cottage which on the Rivers de School property This was a community effort as Riverside was almost a separate little village in those days and it was a long walk for children and pre-school ers to walk over the bridge to the Churches located in the heart of town. Some members of all denominations joined together to operate a Sunday School for the children of the district Some of the children of St. John s family es residing on Rivers de attended that Sunday School at least until they were older Mrs Ernest King and Mrs Cave Sterling taught there for a great many years So our Church was greatly indebted to two other groups for the Sunday School education of some of our children for a good many years. Lina Conner Craig has vivid memories of the activities in this little Sunday School

The responsibilities assumed by the early Stewards of Managers will sound familiar to every group of men who have faced similar problems through the years — the tower roof leaked and had to be repaired the organ should have an increase in salary the caretaker was doing a poor job of looking after the building the budget assessment became bigger and bigger each year The number of men serving on the Board was not increased for 23 years until in March 1907 the Congregation voted to elect ten members to office specifying that three of these should represent the people living north of the railway track.

THE YRANSITION YEARS
REAL ESTATE BOOM

Shortly after Medicine Hat became a city a real estate boom hit all of western Canada and its magnitude can scarcely be believed. Here in Medicine Hat lots were surveyed and staked out as far as Redcliff. Property changed hands daily while prices skyrocketed. Miss Grace Cousins tells me that her father was paid $100,000.00 for the land now occupied by the MacLeod store on Third Street and Fifth Avenue. And like all other speculators he invested the money in other real estate. Hence when the boom suddenly collapsed at the beginning of World War I he along with others, suffered the same fate and like riches that had seemed so real no paper in the light of the present information we can scarcely comprehend our sedate and practical Ladies Aid when they succumbed to the lure of get-rich quick aspirations and bought two lots at #5 and 75 Second Street S.E., for $1800.00 in 1911 hoping to make a huge profit. They paid $1200.00 down, and borrowed the balance at 8% interest. The property was deeded to Mrs. Ewart Mrs. J. A. Cameron, Mrs. Howson and Mrs. Nicholson, the deed being left with Mr. Stewart, at the Glasgow House.

When the Managers began to plan to build a new Manse in 1913 they asked the Ladies to give the lots for the location of the Manse but they refused saying that they wanted a nice brick house built on the Esplanade (First Street). The Aid continued to hold the property until 1925 when they voted to discontinue payment of any more taxes, after the land reverted to the City. In recent years two small apartment blocks were erected on the lots. A tax notice from the City for 1920 has been kept all these years and is evidence of a bright dream — that faded.

CONTROVERSY IN YHE CHURCH

In 1913 we regret to report that trouble arose among the church members over an unknown issue. There are vague references to something that took place at the annual meeting early in 1913 but those minutes are not recorded in the book. However, segments of Board and Session meetings became so acrimonious that both Presbytery and Synod of Alberta became involved in trying to settle the matter. By the end of 1913 some members of the Session and Board had withdrawn from our Church, many members followed them, and they proceeded to found together and form a new Congregation up on the hill naming it Westminster Presbyterian Church.

A Church quarrel is a bitter thing and this was no exception for it was a long time before many of the people involved even spoke to each other again

Although 51 of our members transferred to Westminster Church in 1913 we had an extremely large increase in new members — 62 by Profession of Faith and 75 by Certificate At the March Communion service alone we received 37 new members which is a record that has stood for the entire history of St Johns and no doubt reflects the tremendous influx of new residents to the city So 1913 ended the first thirty years of the history of our Congregation during which we had grown from a handful of 12 Members in 1883 to 315 in 1913 Our shabby frame building had been replaced by a suitable edifice and the citizens of the town were riding on the crest of prosperity created by the land boom It is with sincere regret that we have recorded truthfully the fact that strife had arisen and caused such a division in the membership It must be that members had forgotten their dedication hymn — Within these walls may Peace abound

ACTIVITIES DURING MR MORROW S LATER YEARS IN ST JOHN S

It we preview the second thirty-year period of our history quickly we will note the upheavals and sorrows that faced our congregation The First World War anxiety and sorrow for our members. Church Union voting in 1925 bitter debates and hard decisions The Great Depression which had to be endured by the beloved The Second World War more sadness for all Six changes in the Ministers serving St John s pulpit

It must be that adversity promotes strength for we emerged a strong congregation in 1943 Our Country was still involved in a War which was going hardly and we faced the loss of many of our young people However in January 1914 all of this was veiled in the future and our Board of Managers went quickly ahead with plans for a new Manse Mr Morrow had served the Congregation since 1898, and he had become a well known and beloved Pastor in the south-east part of Alberta His home had been a rented room for years, since he was a bachelor but in 1913 that was changed when he and Mrs Jessie Herald Ewart were married Gifts for this well known couple became the order of the day as the Ladies Aid presented them with a couch, while the Managers gave the chairs The location of the new Manse was causing some controversy and upon presentation of the furniture Mr Morrow suggested that the Manse would have to be built around the couch"

"Brick Manse 1914"

BUILDING THE BRICK MANSE

The next year our congregation provided a suitable Manse for their minister and family when they built the brick home at 258 First Street S.E. a four bedroom house with a study on the main floor for the Minister. The Ladies Aid, being pleased with the location and plan donated $1 000.00 toward the cost of the lighting and heating. Fireplaces in both the parlour and the study added comfort to the home and a large verandah was built across the front, which some years later was completely glassed in. In May 1916, tenders were called for the sale of the old Manse building which had been purchased from the Gait Coal Company in 1885. An offer of $250.00 was received so it was sold and moved away from the local on beside the church where it had stood since 1886. In September the Managers got a rebate on the insurance policy for the building this addition being the only proof that the effort was accepted.

During Mr. Morrow's pastorate in St. John's, the membership had grown from 53 in 1896 to a peak of 315 in 1913. The Elders who had worked side by side with him to garner the Congregation included original Session members elected in 1886 Messrs. Cousins, Finley Hargrave and Twaits. In 1891 Mr. Young was added. In 1907 Mr. David Milne, Mr. W. R. Hay and Mr. Robert Mitchell then in 1908 Mr. James Wilson and Mr. Charles Pratt. These eleven formed the Session until 1913 when 137 new communicants were received into St. John's. This greatly increased the work of these men as there were several vacancies to be filled. The new members were:

Mr. John T. Bell	Mr. H. O. Duggan	Dr. W. H. McDonald	Mr. R. O. Pope
Mr. P. Robertson	Mr. Wm. Robertson	Mr. Henry Stewart	

THE CHURCH AND WORLD WAR I

The First World War broke out on August 4, 1914 and most Canadians became involved in War Work. Liberty Bond drives, Red Cross supply work, knitting and the continual comforting of the anxious and the bereaved. Mr. Morrow was extremely popular with the boys in uniform preaching to large numbers of them who attended our Church. In May 1915 he requested the Ladies Aid to put on a dinner for the soldiers, who they eagerly made plans to carry this out. In February 1916 Mrs. F. O. Sissons, wife of Lt. Col. Sissons presented a Canadian flag to the Church. It now hung in the Sanctuary for the duration of the War. Our Communion record covering the period of the War, lists the names of young men who attended some of our services before going Overseas, many with notations of their Army units. They were not enrolled as members of St. John's, but we know that they were drawn to our Church while in Medicine Hat. Mr. Morrow's sermons so impressed his listeners that members today remember some of them which he preached when they were children.

Two Regiments were recruited in Medicine Hat during the First World War and great interest was shown to see if of the men by Mr Morrow who obtained suitable Honor Rolls, to which each Presbyterian soldier affixed his own signature Lt.-Col F O Sissons was Commander of the 3rd C M R s with 186 St John s men joining up while Lt Col Nelson Spencer was the Commander of the 175th Battalion in which 124 of our men became recruits. Also many more joined other regiments.

During the period of our church history a business-like procedure was instituted in January 1917 by perceptive members of the Congregation to comply with existing laws governing church property Accordingly St John s Presbyterian Church was incorporated as a Religious Society on Dec 31 1917 The meeting of the Congregation had taken place on January 17 1917 at a gathering attended by many members of St John s whose names appear on the photo-copy which hangs in the entrance of the church The chairmen of the meeting was Rev J W Morrow and the secretary was Thos. H Bland The legal work and registration steps were taken by a well known lawyer in the earlier days of Medicine Hat Gilbert W Blankstenk

The Charter calls for thirty members to make up a quorum of the Congregation and provides that the control of the property shall rest in the hands of the Managers together with the Secretary and the Minister

Since the War had drawn many of our members into the Armed Forces, the Congregation was not as large by 1918, but the outlook and attitudes of those who remained had changed greatly from pioneer days It became apparent that the members were dissatisfied with the ministry of St John s as the Minister resigned leaving the pulpit in June 1918 after 22 years of service Many of our older members were deeply hurt over the acceptance of Mr Morrow s resignation, and five of the Session members withdrew from their offices for a time

After his resignation in 1918 Mr Morrow continued to reside in Medicine Hat, and in 1925 entered the United Church of Canada From 1927 to 1930 he ministered to United Church Congregations at Welsh and Dunmore He died on February 4 1932

REV. THOMAS WILSON'S MINISTRY

Rev. Thomas Wilson

In October 1918, Rev. Thomas Wilson became the next Pastor of St. Columb's, and we can appreciate the difficulties he encountered in trying to heal the wounds caused by conflicting sentiments within the Congregation. The Flu Epidemic was raging, and the number of deaths in the community and abroad and appalled the people everywhere. The new Minister was immediately drawn into many family circles where death struck so suddenly. The War finally ended with the Armistice on November 11, 1918, and peace-time activities were resumed. Men returned home to their families, and once more the membership of the Congregation was called to Business which Mr. Wilson faced was an election of new Elders, since the Session had been reduced in numbers. At the annual meeting in January 1919, the names of eight men were nominated and later five of these were elected to office, these being:

Henry Stewart (re-elected) Tom McFadden — Alexander — James Mitchell — Wm. Crimmins

During his time in St. John's Mr. Wilson saw the Congregation grow to 490 members. Minutes of the Board of Managers and Ladies Aid are the only source of historical data. The main items of interest are gleaned from the accounts of annual church meetings in which the names of organizations are mentioned but none of the officers or activities. However we realize from the number of groups listed that the brick church was active with activity. One new group formed was the Young Women's Club which was started by Mrs. James Mitchell and Mrs. Tom Murray in January 1920. The purpose of this group was partly social but their chief responsibility was to raise money to put flowers in the church every Sunday and they also found other ways in which to be helpful. In 1923 they paid the cost of planting a lawn and flowers at the church and of erecting a fence across the vacant lot on the east side of the property. This group flourished for about 20 years — when the young ladies retired from the scene and new groups were formed.

Between the years 1918 and 1925 the following organizations are mentioned in annual meeting reports

1918 Boys Club - interests - hockey, baseball, belonging to Provincial Organization

1919 Girls Club - doing patriotic work

1920 Mission Band.

1922 C.G.I.T. - organized by Miss Fair

1923 Tuxis Boys - report given by Willie Wray and Gerv n Begg

1923 Trail Rangers - report given by Neil McIntosh and Jack Anderson.

1924 Plan to start a Men's Club

THE PIPE ORGAN AND THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHOIR

In 1918 St. John's achieved a dream of many years when a Casavant organ was installed in the Sanctuary. This stimulated great interest in the Choir which reached a peak of accomplishments in the 1920's. Never realized since. In 1924 - 25 and 26 the St. John's Choir entered the annual Provincial Festivals in Edmonton competing in the class for 21 voices or less. The Choir had to raise $650.00 to pay expenses to travel by train to Edmonton each year and in 1924 - under the leadership of Mr. Fossum they won the Sheri Shield. In 1925 they won it again under the baton of Mr. Robert Bullen but when they entered in 1926 they lost out by only one-half point. If they had won it the third time they would have been permitted to keep the Shield. A picture of the full Choir is shown in this book.

We know that Mr. Wilson must have been very deeply involved in all of the discussions both with groups and individuals on the subject of Church Union, which was facing all Presbyterians at this time since he was named Honorary President of the Committee organized on Dec. 19 1924 to promote the Continuing Presbyterian Church. In 1926 shortly after these matters were settled he resigned to move to a church in Vancouver. A very full account of the farewell party in

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson arranged by the Men's Club is reproduced later in this chapter.

CHURCH UNION

The words Church Union hold little meaning to Presbyterian Church members in 1973 but a slight understanding of the term should be acquired in order that we may appreciate our heritage and understand the heartaches and bitterness which were caused by the union between the entire Methodist and Congregational church organizations and those Presbyterian Congregations that voted on the matter and decided whether or not to enter Union.

The subject of Union was discussed for almost twenty years

Dave Thomson M. Jackman, Fred Jarvis, H. A. Roach, John H. Paul, Dr. Ernest Ridley, Carrie, Wilma B. Miller. Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Hillman, Mrs. Archibald, Mrs. Arthur Allen, Smith, Miss R. Wedderburn, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Fossum, Miss J. Lancaster, Miss Alan Thomson, Miss Sinclair

1924 ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

and then came to a head when at the request of the Church Courts the Parliament of Canada passed legislation in 1924 pertaining to the legal aspects of property assets and bequests To complicated matters, each Province had laws covering church property rights and all of these had to be understood

The Historical Committee is indebted to the late Mr A C Hawthorne for a minute book which he compiled as Secretary of the Committee that was appointed in our church in 1924 for final meetings, obtain speakers arrange and canvass and arrange for the necessary voting on Church Union They were fortunate in having two able lawyers who were members of St John s namely Mr Gilbert Blackstock and Mr W A. Begg who expounded many of the complicated details connected with each step One fact stands out clearly to the reader and that is that all Presbyterian Congregations were obliged to take a vote among their members as to whether or not they would join Union otherwise their property automatically came into the possession of the new United Church of Canada.

At a meeting of our members on December 7 1924 the following committee was appointed for the preservation and continuation of St John s Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat

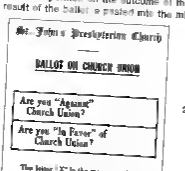
Rev M Thos W son	Mr A. C. Hawthorne
Mr Jas. Haythorne	Mrs A. C. Hawthorne
Mr F H. Spindle	Dr J C. Hargrave
Mr J A Bell	Mr Henry Stewart
Mr J A. Cameron	Mrs. A McDougall
Mrs J E. Nicholson	

At the next meeting the names of Mr Begg and Mr Blackstock were added. The urgency of the matter is seen in the fact that committee meetings were reported on Dec 7 # 17 22, and a congregational meeting on December 26th at which time very precise and legal procedures were agreed upon

1. Session must provide a list of qualified members.
2. A ballot box was to be obtained from the City
3. Returning Officer was appointed — Mr J A Bell
   Two Deputies were appointed — Mr Henry Stewart and Mr Wm Cousins.
4. Scrutineers of both pro and anti-Unionists were appointed
5. *Daily* polling times were set for a two week period — between Dec 27 1924 to Jan 14 1925
6. Each day after poll closed the sealed ballot box and the voters lists were to be deposited at the Bank of Montreal
7. Ballots were to be counted at close of poll on January 14 and the voters list ballot box and record list were to be placed in the bank for safe keeping

The need to safeguard every step of the procedure is seen when we realize that ownership of the church and Manse property of St

John's depended on the outcome of that ballot. The latter stating the result of the ballot is pasted into the minute book, and shows


St. John's Presbyterian Church

BALLOT ON CHURCH UNION

Are you "Against" Church Union?

Are you "In Favor" of Church Union?

The letter "X" in the space containing one of the above questions will signify the voter's decision.

231 VOTES AGAINST UNION
83 Votes for Union
1 spoiled ballot

A vote of thanks to the Returning Officers and Committee was extended by Mr E G Ellerton for the able manner in which the poll had been conducted and the harmonious manner in which the campaign had been conducted generally. This was a gracious gesture on the part of Mr Ellerton as he was apparently on the side of Church Union. At the next meeting of the Board of Managers, Mr R E Keating, Dr T F MacDonald Mr E G Ellerton and Mr R C. Black resigned from having members of the Board also, Mr Ballis the Clerk of Session withdrew from our Church. These resignations were received and after some discussion were accepted but not to become effective until June 10 1925 the date on which Church Union would come into force. And so St John's lost some valued and faithful members but kept their Church!

Ours was the only Presbyterian Congregation left in Medicine Hat after the voting took place as Westminster Church voted for Union. Knox Congregation did the same and immediately planned to amalgamate with the Wesleyan Avenue Methodist Church taking the name of Manor at United Church. Both our minister and our members found themselves standing almost alone as the Methodist and Presbytery was also wiped out. Since its formation in 1914, it had grown to include twenty four churches and preaching points, these being: St. Johns, Knox Westminster Redcliff, Seven Persons, Bassano, Bowell Cypress Hills, Dunmore Wynnifred Wells Orian Many Berries Glassford Thompson, Ranchville, Wardan and seven or eight other small points.

After June 10, 1925 only St John's and Bassano Congregations remained and they were taken into the Calgary Presbytery. Prior to Church Union there were close to 1 000 Presbyterian children in the

four churches of Medicine Hat and Redcliff (Knox 260, St. John's 282, Westminster 235 and Redcliff 130). So we can appreciate from these facts alone the staggering blow that almost obliterated Presbyterianism in western Canada. In Ontario the loss was not so great and from 1925 onward the continuing Presbyterian Churches in Ontario have formed the bulwark of strength for the Congregations scattered throughout the West.

Forty-six members withdrew their certificates but a few continuing Presbyterians came from other Congregations. Recognizing the fact that fresh representation should appear on the Board of Managers and the Session a meeting of the Board on Sept. 8, 1925, took unusual action. A motion was made that all members of the present Board resign and that a new Board be elected at a congregational meeting to be called for September 22. This apparently was done and several men were also nominated for the Session. Election results are not recorded until the report of the Annual Meeting in January which shows that the following were elected as Elders:

Mr. F. Ferguson	Mr. W. Milton	Mr. John Hill
Mr. Jas. Cleland	Mr. A. W. Bell	Mr. R. Martin

Mr. E. A. Bell

The new Board of Managers was made up of:

Mr. J. C. Hargrave	Mr. J. McPhee	Mr. F. Jacks
Mr. T. Murray	Mr. Roy Currie	Mr. F. A. Hazlehead
Mr. J. E. Davies	Mr. F. H. Sproule	Mr. H. H. Mathieu
Mr. A. Anderson	Mr. V. Parrish	

When the Board met Mr. J. E. Davies was elected Chairman of the Board and Mr. J. A. Bell was appointed as Secretary. So the problems of Church Union were resolved in St. John's and faithful workers carried on the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat.

Seventy new members were received by Profession of Faith and thirty by certificate in 1925, so we ended the year with a membership of 427. By this token we can see that Church Union did not deplete our numbers. In fact it must surely have strengthened the loyalty and convictions of all members as they pondered the values involved in casting their ballots on the subject of Church Union.

REV. T. WILSON IS PRESENTED WITH ADDRESS

ACCOMPANIED BY A BEAUTIFUL SILVER TEA SERVICE BY ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION.

The regular meeting of St. John's Men's Club was held in the church parlors on Tuesday Jan. 28th when over 50 members of the club and congregation gathered together for the purpose of spending a social hour with Mr and Mrs. Wilson who are leaving next week for Vancouver where Mr. Wilson assumes the pastorate of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian church. The chair was taken at 8:30 o'clock by the vice-president J. E. Davies, who in his opening remarks, explained that his presence in that position was due to the removal of the president Mr A H Spinks, who had recently been promoted from Medicine Hat to an important position on the C.P.R. at Crowsnest. Mr Davies then also stated that a new president be elected and Mr H Spinks was chosen by acclamation.

Then followed a program of song and speech of a very high order interspersed with community singing under the direction of J. S. Jones. The toast list included "The Ladies" St John's Ding dong call and "The Co-ordinating Presbyterian Church, the latter being proposed by H. H. Mahain and responded to by Mr Black-stock. All the toasts were very reasonably handled but special mention must be made of Mr Blackstocks excellent response which dealt with Presbyterianism in its earliest inception in Ireland right down through the ages until lastly to Methodism. Amongst those present were Rev. Mr. Wilson, Rev. Mr. Cowling, Rev. Mr. Cochrane, Rev. Mr. Cochrane, Rev. Mr. Cochrane

OUR CONTINUING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev Thomas McConnell

St. John's Church having elected a strong Board of Managers and several new members to our Session was now faced with the immediate problem of calling a minister because of Mr. Wilson's resignation. At the annual meeting on January 20 1926 the members voted to extend a call to Rev. Thomas McConnell B.A. a native-born and formerly a pastor in Victoria and Oakland California. Mr. McConnell returned to Canada in 1924 to travel across the country as Dominion Organizer for the Committee promoting the idea of A Continuing Presbyterian Church. In this capacity he had preached in the pulpit of St. John's on Dec 7 1924 at the evening service and had spoken at a meeting of the Congregation shortly after the close of the church service when our members organized for the same purpose.

Rev. Mr. McConnell started his ministry on February 10, 1926 occupying the pulpit until November 1927. This was a difficult period of adjustment after a year or two of arguments and broken friendships as interest seemed to lag for a while. However, when the annual meeting time came around in January 1927. It was found that the Church was free of debt for the second time only in its 44-year history. Rev. Mr. McConnell made a suggestion that was carried out for years namely that the Congregation should appoint the Chairman of the Board as Chairman of the annual meeting. This was immediately endorsed and Mr. J. E. Davies took the chair and conducted the meeting. The report of the Session was given by Mr. James Cleland, covering the disturbing period of uncertainty over Church Union and it was stated that this was one of the most complete reports ever presented to a meeting. George Sept gave the report for the Men's Club and new names appeared at the election of members for the Managing Board — Chief J. M. Taylor, Mr. A. C. Hawthorne and Mr. E. Nasman. Dr. J. C. Hargrave was named the new Chairman of the Board.

At the Minister's suggestion a Visitor's Register was purchased and a desk built on which to place it in the vestibule. In the spring of 1927 a brick garage was built at the Manse at a cost of $370.00 later a piano was purchased with assistance from the Choir and the Ladies Aid.

Membership in the Sunday School stood at 217 and the accommodation in the basement was completely inadequate so in May 1927 the Ladies Aid sent a delegation of nine members to discuss with the Board the possibility of erecting a new hall and also

of remodelling the church kitchen. A joint committee was set up, but it made very slow progress with regard to the hall.

In the summer the Joint Committee proceeded with a tenderin for the church basement. When the furnace was moved in the kitchen it was found to be beyond repair so a new one had to be installed. Mr. Merl Fulton had charge of the building of cupboards, and other alterations. The total cost of the furnace and other work was paid by the Ladies. And the expense amounting to $570.00.

In November 1927 the Joint Committee had presented an estimate to the Board for an extension to the basement with a cement floor, and plastering, roof, and an archway put through to the main basement, cost being $2,625.00. Occasional references were made to the proposed plan but with the more urgent matter of choosing a new minister all other things were laid aside. When the Depression struck the country any thoughts of expansion were abandoned and our Congregation had to wait for 25 years before the dream of a new hall became a reality.

Rev. Mr. McConnell left our Congregation in November 1927 and again the members were faced with the task of calling a minister.

REV. M. STEWART BLACKBURN

Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn

Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn and his family came to Melfort Hall on March 14, 1928 where he served St. John's faithfully for ten years. There is a complete lack of written information about this ministry here but members who worked and associated with him all speak of the wonderful sympathy and understanding which he showed in all branches of a positive Ladies Bath he and Mrs. Blackburn endeared themselves to all of the Congregation who, to his fellow-workers in ministerial associations. Mrs. Blackburn often used her talents as a musician and she was a valued member of the Women's Missionary Society, also in the Choir.

During the early 1930's Mr. Blackburn encountered the problem of having a group of young boys who felt they were too old to attend Sunday School who were at the same time too young to participate in the adult activities of the Church.

Mr. Jack Porter, employed at that time by the Department of Agriculture, solved the problem for Mr. Blackburn by forming a Small Sunday School class and a Young Men's Club. The Club met Saturdays during church service for religious instruction and again on Tuesday nights for other activities. A punching bag, parallel bars, a tumbling horse and mats were acquired from somewhere and Tuesday night became a big event for the boys.

Mr. Porter had at one time in his youth been a professional boxer, who was extremely ardent at physical fitness activities and of course particularly boxing. It is interesting to note that a prize of Five Dollars was offered to the boys by Mr. Porter for any member of the Club who with boxing gloves on, could manage to hit Mr. Porter on the nose. None of the boys was ever able to collect the money though it was tried many times.

However, before the team was up and in the surplus of everyone, Mr. Blackburn donned the gloves one evening and it was not long until he managed to achieve what the other young men were unable to do. He did not however, take the money because he said that he too had had professional training as a boxer during his university years. The Minister's stature from that day on was materially increased as far as the members of the Club were concerned.

The boys activities included many hikes and picnics during the summer and sleigh riding parties during the winter.

The entire country was held in the grip of the Depression from 1930 - 1938 and the Medicine Hat district was especially affected being the centre of one of the driest areas on the Prairies. Dust storms and drought brought heartbreak and poverty year after year and much relief work had to be done by every church organization. The population of the town remained static for a period of ten years. St. John's continued doing its best with small incomes, no extra activities being attempted in any way. Although the church membership stood at 424 in 1926 the givings of the members seemed unusually small, so when the stock market crashed in 1929 our Board had great problems. These were indicated to the Ladies Aid who came to the rescue by giving the Treasurer of the Board all the cash on hand. So he was paid $400.00 and the Ladies ended the year with a balance of $6.23. From 1931 to 1935 the Ladies Aid gave a yearly cheque towards the Budget.

Another indication of the drastic situation of the economy throughout the country and the Church was the fact that Mr. Blackburn's stipend was reduced from $2,500.00 per year to $2,250.00 for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934. In many rural areas, teachers were working for about $40.00 per month.

In spite of this situation the Ladies Aid became determined

Top row, left to right: Captain Wm. Carlisle, Bush, Garrison, Dr. Reid, Simmons, John Nicholas, Reg. Jarvis, Vic Mansfield, Earl Nanning, Shorty
row, left to right: Herb Lumley, ?, Albert Bentley, Jim Mansfield, David Sperling, Jack Hazzard, Fred Robertson, Willie Sankey, Third row,
left to right: John Calder, Bill Elliott, Pat Bush, Armstrong, Jack Parker, Teacher, Wallace, Whalen, Art Jarvis, Bill Lumley, Stanley, Jim Bell, A.
Charlie Crawford, Centre, left to right: Ken Bell

BOYS' CLUB

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CUP

to make a start toward some sort of addition to the basement and in 1935 they opened a special building Fund. By December of that year they had accumulated $702.00 in it. Much of this money was raised by putting on a play entitled "The Melting Pot" at the Empress Theatre running three nights, and directed by Stewart Blanchard. Members of the Circles sold the tickets, and the cast was served lunch at the church after each performance. It was truly a congregational effort. Then in June they staged a Highland Gathering under the direction of Mrs. Lome Laflaw in the meadow south of Mrs. Hemstreet's home at Brookwood Auto Court. This was one of the most delightful outdoor events ever held by St. John's Members.

In 1938, in time for the Fiftieth Anniversary of St. John's, the Ladies' Aid, like all good housewives, wanted everything to look its best so they undertook two large projects. The Minister's small study was completely renovated under the supervision of Mrs. Tom Graham and the late Mrs. Herbert Stevens, with new furniture and a fireplace making a more comfortable room for the Pastor. Then, with the encouragement of Mr. Blackburn, the new red carpet and underpad, for aisles and entrance of the church were purchased and laid at a cost of $580.00. This was considered a great extravagance in a depressed year, but their choice of fine quality carpet has been vindicated since that same carpet is still in use forty years later having been given to Riverside Presbyterian Church when our Sanctuary was renovated in 1957.

A good deal of relief work was carried out during the Depression especially in giving clothing to the needy and for two years groceries were purchased by the Ladies' Aid to two families. The amounts spent per week seem paltry today. But when did a notice in a newspaper of January 1935 that the stores advertising baking beat at four cents a pound, and pot roasts at eight cents a pound, we can see that the gifts were a real help to the families.

ST. JOHN'S GRADUATES IN DEACONESS TRAINING

Young people have always adapted to the conditions in which they live, and the need for Christian leadership during this trying time must have prompted two St. John's girls to attend the Missionary and Deaconess Training School (later named Ewart College) in Toronto. They were Miss Jane Gordon, daughter of Mrs. M. de Gordon, and Miss Gertrude Rolls, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rolls, both girls graduating in the fall term beginning in April, 1936.

Jane immediately plunged into the work for which she had been trained, going up to Prince George for a time, then to Fort a Indian School where she was the girls' Matron for some time. She returned to Medicine Hat in 1941, when she entered the Business world for several years. She worked faithfully in the Brownie and Ranger activities

Jane Borden

of St. John's until she was married to Paul Green in 1948 and moved to Vancouver Island.

Gertrude R.N.'s career as a Deaconess is obscured by the lack of contact with her or her family. However, it is known that she trained as a registered nurse, after going to college. She went to Rocky Mountain House, after the Women's Missionary Society gained a hospital there, serving in the dual capacity of nurse and Deaconess for some time. Her next sphere of service was in one of our Foreign mission fields, where she contracted a tropical disease that required her return home. After a long convalescence, she moved to California, where she was living when last heard from by any of St. John's members.

The deaths of several revered senior members of long standing, added to the discouragement faced by our Minister, led in 1937, Mr. Blackburn tendered his resignation, and he preached his farewell sermon to the Congregation on the evening of Sept. 19, 1937. At that time Fifth Avenue United Church members cancelled their own services joining St. John's to pay tribute to our Minister with Rev. Mr. Bainbridge assisting in the pulpit.

During the War Mr. Blackburn donned uniform as a Chaplain, and while he was stationed in Calgary he assisted St. John's many times when the pulpit was vacant, especially when his services were needed to conduct a funeral. His interest in our Church extended long after he left our City. After the War, he served in several areas of Western Canada, his last charge before retirement in 1960 being at St. Aidan's Church in New Westminster, B.C. St. John's members were saddened to learn of his death on August 6, 1972 at the age of seventy-six years.

Mr. Blackburn's son Malcolm Jr., who was a lad in St. John's Church, later entered the ministry of our Presbyterian Church. His Christian service has been principally carried out in the United States, where he moved about 1965. There he became involved in many radical social causes. About 1970 Malcolm was the only white minister in any U.S.A. black denomination — the Africa Episcopal Methodist Church. Martin Luther King had spoken at this church in Memphis, Tennessee the night before his assassination. A minister visiting St. John's reports that about 1970 Malcolm was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was very much involved in the struggle for civil liberties and racial justice in the Southern U.S.A.

THREE PULPIT CHANGES IN SIX YEARS

After ten years of ministry by Mr. Blackburn the Congregation was faced with the unfamiliar task of choosing a new minister. Several men preached for a call, and the choice fell upon the Rev. W. D. Grant Hollingworth, who with his wife came to us from Prince Rupert to serve as our minister, in January 1938. His ministry was almost immediately affected by the outbreak of World War II. In 1939, many of our members who had been active service in the First World War were called upon to watch their children enter this latest holocaust. Remembrance Day in 1939 drew another Congregation to St. John's as people gathered in mutual sympathy to face the future. The crowd was so great that broadcast facilities were installed in the Sunday School room downstairs, by Mr. J. J. Nott and Mr. Joe Bell, to accommodate the anticipated attendance. To hear the "Goodwill" speaker, Rev. Dr. Hugh Jones of Great Falls, Montana.

Rev. Mr. Hollingworth

In March 1940 Mr. Hollingworth informed the Session that he had been posted for service as a Chaplain in the Air Force, and prepared us for his imminent departure. Just as every family had to adjust to the demands of War, so our church family was obliged to do the same, and Mr. Hollingworth was granted leave of absence to enter the Air Force.

The Congregation proceeded to call Rev. Wilfred Butcher from St. John's, Nfld. to be our Interim Minister, and he and Mrs. Butcher arrived on Oct. 12, 1940. The Air Force Training Camp No. 34 in the western outskirts of the City was opened early in 1941, and Mr. Butcher immediately gave a great deal of his time and ministry to calling at the Base and becoming acquainted with the men of all ranks. In May he reported to the Session that he had sent out eighty letters to Presbyterian men stationed at No. 34, and our church began posting notices of our Services in their quarters.

In June 1941 Mr. Butcher was appointed as a part-time Chaplain at No. 34 which necessarily curtailed the time he could spare on congregational activities. Our members were fast learning to assume more and more responsibilities in running the various Groups in the Church. In October Mr. Sam Goodfellow tendered his resignation as Sunday School Superintendent since he had donned a uniform too, but he was only given leave of absence, and Miss Kate MacDonald

Rev. Wilfred Butcher

a retired school teacher, assumed Mr. Butcher's duties for some time.

In spite of all the problems of Wartime, the Ladies' Aid has continued to increase their Building Fund, started in 1935. The need for additional space became imperative, and finally in the summer of 1941, a small extension to the church was erected. The only evidence of this construction is a quotation of a cheque issued by the Treasurer of the Ladies Aid to Mr. Cranmer for the sum of $3,107.00. A brick structure, measuring 25 feet square, was built at ground level, on the north side of the church, with a door cut through from the kitchen. It consisted of one room, heated with a gas stove and was a very plain building, but it answered a great need for Sunday School, Boy Scouts, Cubs, and Sunday School classes, from 1941 to 1953, when it was demolished to make room for the new Christian Education Centre.

On Dec. 21, 1941, Mr. Butcher left to accept a Chaplaincy in the Air Force, and we were faced with the awkward situation of trying to obtain someone for supply, since our call, it was not actually vacant. The Session consulted the Presbytery in January 1942, on the matter after which an air mail letter was sent to Rev Mr. Hollingworth explaining the situation in which St. John's was placed. As a result Mr. Hollingworth immediately tendered his resignation as our pastor thus freeing us to look for a permanent minister.

During the vacancy following Mr. Butcher's departure the Church was supplied by various Ministers including Rev. Dr. F. D. Roxburgh for several months.

MINISTRY OF REV ROBERT TAYLOR

At a meeting of St John's held on Sunday March 21 1943, the Congregation accepted the report of the Supply Committee to extend a call to Rev Robert Taylor of Indian Head Saskatchewan This was accepted and Mr and Mrs. Taylor and baby daughter arrived in June to spend the next 24 years in the Manse during which time they built themselves into the hearts and lives of St John's members

Rev Robert L Taylor

WORLD WAR II ACTIVITIES

The War cast its shadow on all aspects of life and ministering to the bereaved and anxious families became a daily part of our Pastoral duties. The St. John's Honor Roll for the Second World War contains the names of 152 men and women who enlisted in the Armed Services. The Session sent out a letter of greeting to all of our members in the Forces while the Ladies Aid financed the frequent mailing of parcels to members in uniform. A choir of men from the Royal Air Force Base came in and in our church one Sunday in July and many members opened their homes and even adopted a boy from No 34 during these War years

In anticipation of the ending of the War in Europe, our Session agreed that a service of Thanksgiving should be held on the very day that hostilities ceased, so on V E Day our Church was filled to capacity with citizens who came to express their thanks to God for the end of the European part of the War. In March 1945, a Welcome Home held in the church was an outstanding success the Session thanking the Ladies Aid also the P.S.A. Club for the arrangements

The custom of singing the National Anthem at every service during the War was now discontinued and our Church gradually adjusted to peace-time activities. At the spring Communion Sunday in March 1946 there were 224 participants in the service thus indicating the return of many of our members from Overseas

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The ensuing years of Mr Taylor's ministry which included underlying concern for the spiritual and financial welfare of the Congregation its outreach and worship proved to be very exciting years for St John's Attendance at Communion Service on March 9, 1958 is recorded as 248 at the morning service and 104 at the evening service. The membership increased steadily until it reached 468 in 1966 the largest recorded

PRAYER GROUPS

Although weekly prayer meetings were part of the spiritual life of St John's from the earliest days they were eventually discontinued as was the custom of holding Preparatory Service on the Friday evening before Communion Sunday However during his ministry Dr Taylor organized a group of men who met for prayer every Friday morning for twelve years The informal gathering took place from 7 30 a.m to 9:00 a.m at the church and although originated by only a few the numbers grew to twelve or fourteen men Each man present took a turn reading from the Bible or from a religious journal Of importance to all was the practice of praying for those who were sick or in trouble It was found that this type of faith healing had a powerful effect.

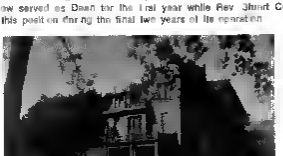
Mrs R L Taylor sponsored a small group of ladies who gathered for prayer in various homes one morning a week at 10:00 a.m This group met faithfully for a good many years and enjoyed the fellowship of meeting together

Our Members sense of isolation here in the West has always been a concern of the Session and one method of trying to overcome this has been the encouragement of the reading of our church magazine the Record by all of the Congregation Much time was spent at Session meetings in discussing how best to promote the sense of belonging to the great work of the Presbyterian Church Our office in Toronto was also concerned about the lack of interest in the magazine as evidenced in the minutes of Session on Nov 28 1945 The Clerk of Session read a communication from Rev J H McInnes Convener stating for better support of the publication The matter was discussed very fully some of the Session even suggesting that the whole format of the book be improved With this end in view someone was to write to Toronto accordingly However the circulation of the Record continued to decline until it was decided to work out a better system on commencing in June 1948 the Record was mailed out to members Mrs. Tom Murray took charge of the work In 1950 and by 1952 there were 160 subscribers on the list but increased mailing costs created more problems Finally, in 1958 it was decided to underwrite the expense of placing the Record in

every home in St. John's. This has stimulated the interest and understanding at all members by continued contact with the plans and outreach of our Presbyterian Church both at home and abroad.

PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

The Presbyterian Training School opened in 1949 with Mr. Taylor largely responsible for its continued operation through his services as a lecturer and Member of the Board appointed to administer its affairs. He encouraged members of St. John's to attend the various courses being offered as well as to give of their wealth to assist in financing the continuing operation of the School. Rev. Jesse Bigelow served as Dean for the last year while Rev. Grant Coles held this post during the final two years of its operation.



Presbyterian Training School

While the student body never reached capacity, about 45 graduated from the School, notably Rev. Donald Kemble (a former Elder of St. John's), Rev. Robert Wyber and the Rev. Larry Jackson. Reference to P.T.S. would not be complete without mention of the Rev. Dr. John Grant who served as Dean of the School from 1950 to 1955. Dr. Grant dedicated himself to the students at P.T.S., the staff, St. John's Congregation and everyone with whom he came in contact.

In 1956, our Church became very interested in the organization of a new Congregation on Riverside in connection with the Presbyterian Training School located in the Hargrave home. The residents there carried on negotiations for some time with the Board in Toronto trying to finance the erection of a church building. St. John's members contributed the sum of $2,300.00 in donations which was sent to Toronto to be held in trust for the new church group. In March 1957, our Board loaned $10,000.00 to the Riverside Church group, interest free, then at the annual meeting the next year voted to make

this an oak pulpit gift. Also the carpet and furniture for the Sanctuary were given to the new church when we carried out renovations to our own Sanctuary in 1957. Ever since Riverside church was built we have joined the members in holding joint summer services.

In 1955 the Church purchased equipment for broadcasting over the local radio station and regular broadcasting of Church services mainly every sixth Sunday has continued ever since. This has been part of the spiritual outreach of St. John's to both city residents and the rural areas of southern Alberta.

Medicine Hat experienced a period of expansion during the late 1940's throughout the 50's, and in the early 60's, resulting in rapid development of new residential districts in the Crescent Heights area of town. The Congregation decided that we should be prepared to build another Presbyterian Church in that part of the city, so two lots were reserved in east Crescent Heights with the idea of building at a later time. However the plan had to be abandoned and the lots reverted to the city.

MEMBERS WHO ENTERED CHURCH SERVICE

The influence of Dr. Taylor's ministry to the Congregation of St. John's and the rewarding action taken by two of our young men who made the decision to enter the ministry and make it their life work these being William Graham and Donald Kemble.

REV. WILLIAM JOHN GRAHAM

Bill Graham holds the unique distinction of being the only truly native son of St. John's (being baptized, raised and confirmed within the Congregation) who has entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in its 90 year history.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Graham, Bill was born in Medicine Hat on June 17, 1924, and was baptized in St. John's by the Rev. Thomas Wilson. After attending local elementary schools, he entered Alexandre High School graduating in 1943 with his senior matriculation. In the same year he joined the R.C.A.F. and served until his discharge in 1945.

Having been brought up through the Christian education programme of St. John's, Bill became a communicant member of the Church at age 18, being confirmed at a Preparatory Service by the Rev. Dr. Roxburgh who was a supply minister in 1942 during the vacancy period preceding the arrival of the Rev. Robert Taylor. It was in 1946, during Dr. Taylor's early ministry in Medicine Hat that Bill decided to enter the Christian ministry. He entered the University of Toronto in 1947 graduating with a B.A. degree in 1950. In that same year he entered Knox College, Toronto graduating in Theology

In 1953. In May of 1953 he was ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and inducted into the charge of Westmount Church Edmonton where he remained until 1956

For the next two years Bill served as minister in the new Church extension charge of Guildwood Village in Scarborough Ontario In 1962 he became a Chaplain in the R C A F serving successively in Toronto Goose Bay Trenton Regatville and Cold Lake Alberta where he still serves

Bill married the former Catherine McLean Petersen of Toronto on September 15, 1951 They have three children Lexie 16 Cameron 15 and Scott 11

REV DONALD G KEMBLE

Donald Kemble was born in Chester England where he received his elementary education before entering the accounting profession Coming to Medicine Hat in 1940 with the R.A.F. he met and married Miss Vera Pickles of this City After the War he returned to Medicine Hat, continuing his work as an accountant.

Interest in St John s Church led Donald to attendance at the Presbyterian Training School from which he graduated and to election to eldership on the Session of St John s in 1952 He decided to enter the ministry and while attending Brandon College he was appointed Student Minister at Southminster Church in Brandon After graduating with a B A. from Brandon College in 1956 he moved to Toronto in order to attend Knox College serving at Westminster and St. Stephens churches while a Student After graduating in 1958 he was ordained the same year serving several Congregations in Ontario. He is now the Minister of Knox Presbyterian Church at Caledon East Ontario.

Rev Wm J Graham

Rev Donald G Kemble

BUILDING EXPANSION

The Christian Education Centre

The growth of the City of Medicine Hat was very slow during the War years and it was some time before much expansion took place. However, beginning in 1946 the population almost doubled in numbers up to 1964, growing from 12 560 to 25 278. Two large industries were located in the city which helped to bolster the economy of the district and the community became prosperous as evidenced by the opening of entire new subdivisions on former grazing land on the outskirts of the city. The effect of the growth and affluence was quite apparent in St. John's where larger membership and greatly increased givings placed the Congregation in a new and challenging role in the community. New members were drawn into the Church from the large population of the city and fresh interest was aroused in every part of the life of St. John's. By 1951 it became apparent to the membership that the church facilities must be enlarged. A building committee was appointed at once to enquire into accommodation needed for Sunday School, week-day groups and various church organizations. This Committee consisted of representatives of Session, Board of Managers, Ladies Aid and the Congregation as follows:

Ladies Aid	— Mrs. W. C. Campbell, Mrs. J. E. Davies
Board of Managers	— Mr. John Fraleton, Mr. D. S. Hawthorne
Session	— Mr. Tom Murray
Congregation	— Mr. J. H. Yuill, Mr. J. G. Pratt

By 1953 the need for expansion became so imperative that the Board of Managers decided to employ The Wells Organization to come and conduct a fund raising campaign for a new educational centre. This Organization consisted of a high-yskilled group, who worked out an increasingly efficient method of involving the entire membership of a Church by prayer, enthusiasm and every-member canvasses. In spite of success hitherto unheard of. They applied their techniques to St. John's with success undreamed of by our members.

Replacing the Building Committee of 1951 the Construction Committee was now appointed representing all church organizations to study building needs and recommendations. The members were:

Mrs. W. C. Campbell	Mrs. J. E. Davies	Mr. J. Cuthbertson
Mrs. C. Latimer	Mr. S. Hopkins	Mr. G. Scott
Mrs. G. G. Edes	Mr. C. S. Greer	Mr. J. Fraleton
Mr. M. H. Shaw	Rev. R. L. Taylor	Mr. J. H. Yuill
Mr. D. S. Hawthorne		

The next step was the formation of a Canvass Committee of twelve members appointed to work with the Wells Organization. They soon drew in many of the Church members organizing them into teams to go out and contact all of the Congregation. The Committee being comprised of:

T. A. Hargrave	R. A. Mitchell	George Armstrong	George Murray
R. R. Black	Gordon Simons	Dr. W. C. Campbell	Maurice Stone
D. S. Hawthorne	D. G. G. Elder	J. H. Yuill	Rev. R. L. Taylor

Early personal interviews resulted in the pledging of substantial sums, thus lifting the whole program to an encouraging start. As the publication mounted toward the objective set, so the enthusiasm of the canvassers grew, and the final week of the campaign found the teams rushing in and out of the church school room bringing in pledges and obtaining names of new contacts to be made. The Ladies Aid members were on hand to serve coffee and lunch each evening. Finally when the last members had been visited, the tabulator soared to the unbelievable point of $111 000.00. This far exceeded the original objective of $85 000.00 and resulted in commitments being given by the members many covering a period of 156 weeks.

Plans gradually progressed to the point where a contract was awarded to Johnson Construction on October 1953 building to start immediately with completion by August 1 1954. The tenative plans provided individual Sunday School rooms combined assembly room and dining hall stage a large modern kitchen nursery for small children storage closets cabinets and a church office.

Mrs. J. W. Mawhinney who came to Medicine Hat in 1885 with her parents still resided at the turning of the sod with the assistance of the Minister on October 25 1953. As Mrs. Mawhinney struggled to push the spade into the earth her great sense of humor prompted her to look up and say to Mr. Taylor "What do you want, gee or haw?" She assisted again on May 18 1954 at the ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone. Dedication of the Christian Education Centre was undoubtedly the Presbytery of Macleod after the morning service on October 12 with the Rev. Dr. N. D. Kennedy Past Moderator of the General Assembly as Guest Speaker.

Every member and organization in St. John's was delighted with the spacious surroundings and convenience of the new building from the moment it was opened for use. The Ladies Aid had accumulated over $3 000.00 to spend on new furnishings and they proceeded to purchase all of the equipment that was needed. The old treasured teas became a thing of the past, being replaced by sliding banquet tables while the rickety card tables were discarded for square stacking ones. Two hundred and fifty metal stacking chairs were purchased, as well as plentiful supplies of new silverware, table linen and other equipment. This was immediately brought in and properly stored in

Old Kitchen

Building Committee 1956

Fund Raising Committee 1953

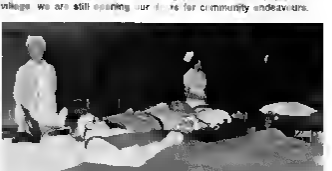
Taking the Seat. Mrs. J. W. Morrow — Rev. R. L. Taylor

South view of Church Hall

North view of Education Centre.

the new pantry and cupboards. It was now possible for several meetings to be held at the same time in the church building, with a new spirit of enthusiasm pervading the Congregation.

This new addition to St. John's was the first Educational Centre built by any of the churches in Medicine Hat and even in Southern Alberta, becoming a model for other groups planning similar extensions of their facilities. The large Auditorium with dimensions of 82' x 38', has been used for many community activities outside of the Church, including the Horticultural Shows, Fashion Displays, district and youth rallies. The Red Cross utilize the entire facilities of the centre to conduct the Blood Donor Clinics three times a year. So, from sharing our very first church building in 1884 with the pupils of the village, we are still opening our doors for community endeavours.



Blood Donor Clinic Days At St. John's

MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE SANCTUARY

Major repairs to the Sanctuary had been carried out by Mr. J. G. Pratt and several men of the Congregation in 1948. All of the dark V joint redwood boards on the lower parts of the walls were covered with light colored plywood as was the choir stall which curled the front of the church eliminating the original brass railings and velour curtains. Stairways were changed and existing ornaments dispensed with. At this period the decorative was made that the large wooden balls attached to the ceiling beams in 1902 were in reality made of pressed paper! These renovations remained in effect until February 1957 when extensive changes in the Sanctuary were carried out by the Veley City Furniture Company of Dundas, Ontario. New pews and woodwork of light oak were installed and new pews green carpet laid in the aisles and front of the church, this being done at a

cost of $11,200.00. The organ was completely rebuilt at a cost of $11,890.00.

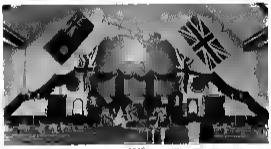
Rededication of the Sanctuary took place on Sept. 15, 1957 following the morning service with Dr. Emmit representing the Moderator of the General Assembly. The organ was dedicated following the evening service. "To the Glory of God and in memory of those members who gave the natives in the Service of their Country in the two World Wars.

NEW ENTRANCE AND MEMORIAL WINDOWS

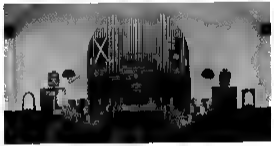
Renovations to the front entrance of the church were carried out in 1965 at a cost of approximately $36,000.00. Service of dedication took place on Feb. 2, 1966 during the visit of the Moderator of the 81st General Assembly the Rev. Dr. James A. Munro officiating. Further renovations were done after a period of time with the installation of beautiful stained glass Memorial Windows in the Sanctuary replacing the plain cathedral glass that had been in use since the church was built in 1902. Particulars about the windows are listed in the appendix.

Kindergarten during church service

CHANGES IN THE SANCTUARY

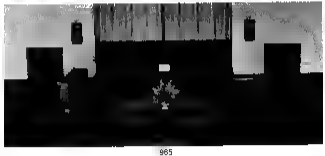


1918



1933

1948



1965

Memorial Windows.

Sign at the front of the Church
Designed by J. J. Ile ne, teacher of St. John's.

MODERATOR OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Senate of Knox College in Toronto conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Rev M. Taylor on April 25, 1961, for outstanding work with his own Congregation and Boards of General Assembly over past years. When the news was received at the Manse that the Degree was to be conferred, the Congregation never learned of the reaction of the adults in the household on that occasion, but the recipient of the honor told some friends later of the Taylor children's attitude toward the news. When they were all seated at the table at noontime their father slowly leaning ages set the counte- and explained the information contained in the letter that had just arrived. They promptly wanted to know why this honor had been bestowed on him so he modestly outlined some of his activities on Church Boards etc. They digested this in silence for a few minutes then Johnny jumped up, threw back his chair, dusted it off with a great flourish and said, "Sit down, Doctor." So the newly appointed Doctor of Divinity was immediately cut down to size by his own offspring. Naturally the entire Congregation was delighted to have their Minister honored by Knox College, and was pleased to have the privilege of presenting him with the gown and hood appropriate to his title.

Within two months further honors were bestowed upon our Minister when he was elected Moderator of the 97th General Assembly in June 1961, and once again, the Session minutes reflect the feelings of Session and the Congregation with the recording of these remarks: "The members of Session are very pleased with the election of Dr. Taylor as Moderator of the General Assembly and knew that the Church as a whole will prosper and benefit, with God's help, during his year as Moderator."

The first Communion Service conducted by Dr. Taylor when he returned home as Moderator (of General Assembly) was an occasion for solemn rejoicing by all of the members who became acutely aware of the new stature of our Minister and of the Congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The ties between ourselves and the early members of St. John's were foremost in many minds, and in recognition of this, the silver ewer and goblets which had been stored away for many years, were lovingly placed on the Communion table as evidence of the tangible bond between these pioneer members and the present generation. None of the younger Elders had ever seen that First Communion set, but were so impressed by the significance of its historic values, that it has been reverently used ever since.

D. Robert L. Taylor, B.A., D.D.
Moderator of the 87th General Assembly
of the
Presbyterian Church in Canada
1981 - 982

For the next year not only the Congregation but the family in the Manse had to learn to get along without the head of the household who he have led across the Dominion in the years during which Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had occupied the Manse they had been drawn close to the members of St John's in sharing the joys and responsibilities of raising a family. Pat (Patricia) and Bob. John Nan and Lundy became well known in the Congregation both through their presence at all church functions and also through their father's occasional references from the pulpit which indicated involvement in the continuous problems of parenthood. The arrival of Mr. Robert Taylor Sr. from Orillia Ontario in 1957 completed the family at the Manse. This new personality added spice to St. John's gatherings as he often tried to conceal his devious and mischievous pride in the small achievements in the pulpit and elsewhere by his caustic remarks about "the Minister"

By 1961 Pat Taylor was a grownup young lady and no one was surprised when romance entered her life. John Allison a new graduate from Knox College was appointed to act as supply in St John's pulpit while the Moderator was absent on his official duties and the hospitality of the Manse was quite naturally extended to him. It became a plain case of the bold young man who marched in and married the host's daughter!

In June 1963 Pat and John were married in St. John's the entire Congregation being invited guests till the happy occasion. The ladies of the church felt privileged to prepare a suitable reception in the church hall after which the young couple left to make their home in the Manse at Kimberley B.C. where John became the minister in the church there.

Dr. Taylor during his ministry was always interested in the work of the young people and encouraged member participation in the various young people's groups. These groups usually met on Sunday evenings during the week for worship, discussion and recreation. The aim was to study the meaning of Christianity the Church in relation to the community and the world and from this emerged a programme of Bible studies, discussions on current issues often resulting in some uninhibited free expression of opinion! The young people became aware of the needs of others and raised funds for the Deaconess Training School (late called Ewart College) Refugee Relief Fund, the Hungarian Fund and also sent $100 for the work of overseas missions. In 1956 they purchased the Notice Board and Pamphlet Rack in the Narthex which is still used today for the purpose of displaying the various Christian pamphlets and literature.

Of the many projects undertaken by the young people one in particular is remembered which was both energetic and also an excellent method of teaching. Under the direction of Winnie and

A Wilson they produced a set of cards in 1957 entitled "The Story of Christmas" with a taped commentary. This was to be an authentic story of Christ's birth and early in November she after the first snowfall they set up shop in a barn out at the Stampede grounds where many animals were housed during the winter. No artificial sets or props were used with the exception of the camels made by Jack Sains. The straw was arranged, animals penned into place, actors suitably costumed and all was in readiness for the first scene but something was missing — the sheep! A few could be seen out in the fields and the group tried to persuade them to participate in this ceremony but to no avail — when in and behold there modestly appeared Bill Bass and his sheep. A few curious animals, that appeared to have taste in acting, wandered over to the set and were immediately hired, adding the final authentic touch to the story. Upon completion of the project it was shown to the Congregation at a Fireside usually held following the evening service.

Many journeys were made to Lethbridge and Fort Macleod by Presbytery Rallies which provide food for thought and were an enlightening experience for those in attendance. Trips were also made to Elkwater Lake, she usually became the highlight of the year. All this was made possible by the fact that the Taylor family owned a cottage there and it became a favourite meeting place for the young people. Retreats, hikes, wiener roasts and swimming were all enjoyed, she during the winter months skiing became a favourite sport, she it was quite an adventure to climb the hills (before the Ski Lift was installed), just to descend on your knees. Rat on your back or on your skull. There were a number of occasions when a bone or two was broken! However these minor accidents did not overshadow the fellowship and hospitality extended by the Taylors at the cottage, she the many memorable evenings spent in discussion of the Manse.

As the years passed changes were taking place in the young people's groups. They were now becoming aware of their own need for self-expression in worship and song. The trend began to appear in the early 1960's and the general gap was becoming visible when the Young People's Group decided to hold a Parents' Night chiefly to inform the parents of their activities. Soon they were taking a closer look at our traditional services particularly the musical. An example of this change is quoted from the 1964 annual reports. Is Erica here? Erica Field is our pianist and is responsible for an important part of the program, namely singing. Believe it or not we like to sing she we like lively music. For the reason we use the Red Book called Devotional Hymns, she we have no complaint against the Book of Praise (theology of the hymns is usually sound) there are more lively tunes in the Red Book. Recently a new wrinkle was added, we have been singing spirituals accompanied by a guitar!! (Erica could tell wonders with the tempo of "There's A Church In The Valley").

Also as the winds of change became inevitable. Soon experimental liveymodern hymn tunes were introduced into our traditional services and soon a new age began — of contemporary singing and services with more emphasis on youth participation.

During the busy years that Dr. Taylor spent in Medicine Hat he developed a hobby that brought enjoyment to himself, the family and eventually to the Congregation. He became a bird-watcher. The location of the Manse on property adjoining the Saskatchewan riverbins the existence of a few trees on the back lawn created a setting for continual study of the many birds that flocked to the feeders set out by the family. Delight in the arrival of a new species was shared with friends and gradually our Minister conceived the idea of incorporating his hobby into a series of sermonettes in order that he might him with material for the children's sermons for several years. The adults as well as the youngsters always looked forward to the moment when a big cardboard was produced from behind the pulpit exhibiting a bird whose characteristics were expertly applied to human behavior.

This interest led to the acquisition of a small library of books as well as a large collection of pictures of birds to assist Dr. Taylor in continuing this method of including the children in the Sunday morning services. The little sermonettes achieved such fame that they were even written up in the Presbyterian Record.

ASSISTANTS TO THE MINISTER

The increase in the membership of the Congregation with the consequent expansion of its activities in St. Johns, led to a decision by the Board of Managers to obtain some assistance for Minister. In 1955 Miss Marguerite Quickfall Deaconess was employed to assist the Pastor with church duties on a trial basis of one year, her term later being extended until April 1958. After she left Mrs. Albert Meier was employed as a part-time secretary until September 1959 when Miss Eleanor Mahler took over the position on a full-time basis remaining with us in 1973.

Rev. John Allison was engaged as Assistant Minister for a two-six-month period from September 1961 to August 31 1962 to serve the Congregation during Dr. Taylor's absence as Moderator of the General Assembly. In October of 1963 Rev. Brown Milne was engaged as Assistant to the Minister directing his attention particularly in the area of Christian Education until he tendered his resignation on June 30 1965 on accepting a Call to North Vancouver B.C.

FAREWELL

On January 29 1967 Dr. Taylor informed the Session that he had received an invitation from a West Vancouver Congregation as

was granted leave of absence to visit them on Feb. 26, on his return informing the Session that he intended to accept a Call by the Church II II was placed in his hands

Having served our Church for 23 years and three months, Dr Taylor concluded his ministry to St. John's on June 25 1967. The Session recorded the appreciation of our members to him for his understanding patience leadership and encouragement during the years he served as our Pastor. He and Mrs. Taylor were honored by farewell parties and gifts by St. John's groups and prior to their departure Fifth Avenue United Church held a Sunday evening service to which the entire community was invited. At that time their Sanctuary was filled with friends who gathered to pay tribute to the Christian leadership which our Minister and his wife had provided for so many years

Mill Dam Hawthorne Conferring With Dr. Smith the New Minister]

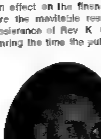
A NEW ERA

A Long Vacancy and Arrival of Dr Smith

The Rev L D Henkleman of St. Andrew's Church Lethbridge was appointed Interim Moderator by the Presbytery of Miscanbi and carried out his responsibilities to St. John's conscientiously and effectively for the next eight months. When needed he met with the Settlement Committee acting as Moderator of Session and arranging supply. The Congregation was indeed blessed to M Henkleman.

Our Church was fortunate in that a Student Minister from Scotland in the person of Andrew McLellan was appointed to serve the Congregation for July and August 1967 with supply for the remaining six months being available on a week to week basis.

The pulpit being vacant for a period of eight months not only affected attendance at the regular services of worship but also had an effect on the financial condition with the Congregation. These are the inevitable results when a "Call" is being processed. The assistance of Rev K C Duke Sept at Missions Synod of Alberta, during the time the pulpit was vacant, is gratefully acknowledged.



Dr D C Smith

During the eight-month period when the Manse was vacant the Board undertook extensive alterations and redecorating in the building. Mrs. Don Hawthorne assisted greatly in carrying out these plans. Over the years many other repairs and changes have taken place usually over the heads of the occupants, causing them much inconvenience. When the ruling bodies of the Church decide to do a thing, it is sometimes carried out without consulting the Minister's family. This must have been the case about twenty years ago, when the vermiculite was completely removed from the Manse and a small open porch built in its place. Young Bob Taylor the Minister's son, was heard to say regretfully to the neighbors "We liked the vermiculite but the Ladies Aid didn't."

On November 8, 1967 the Congregation voted to extend a "Call" to Dr. Donald C. Smith of Fort Albern, B.C. The Settlement Committee reported at the January 31 1968 meeting that Pastoral Tie with Knox Fort Albern would be severed on February 15th. Dr. Smith and family

to arrive approximately February 13th. They reached Medicine Hat on February 22nd with induction under the direction of the Presbytery of Calgary. The Service was held at 7:30 p.m. that evening with a reception held following Induction Service when our new Minister, his wife and family (Fiona, Sheila, Neil and Laura) were welcomed by the Congregation.

Changing Patterns of Society and Church Life

St. John's in its 80 year history has had to face many various of problems and challenges arising out of changing social and economic conditions of the community. But perhaps none of these changes have presented as great a challenge as have the events of the last decade or so.

If the post war years witnessed a remarkable growth of population and economic activity in Medicine Hat (the city almost doubled in population from 1948 to 1961 — from 12,860 to 24,484 persons), the decade of the '60's saw a general slowdown in economic expansion in the city and virtually no population growth. Although the city and district continued to reflect a high level of prosperity throughout this period, the retarded population growth and particularly the loss of significant numbers of young people from the city in search of jobs and higher educational opportunities gradually began to have an effect upon the membership, church attendance and other activity in St. John's. (The Session reported to the Presbytery prior to the Call to Dr. Smith that of 488 members on the roll no less than 83 were non-residents — mostly young people attending school or recently employed in Calgary or Edmonton — and that only 337 persons could be considered active members).

But if economic changes were having an affect on St. John's in this period, the gradual change in the social habits of the people was likewise affecting church life, and particularly church and church school attendance. The advent of T.V. in the mid '50's, the shorter work week, the almost universal ownership of motor vehicles with the resulting increased mobility of people, especially on weekends, the changed attitudes toward Sunday observance, the easy access to greatly improved summer and winter recreational facilities (especially at Elkwater), the growing popularity of extensive winter holidays, and many other similar social trends have all contributed to the declining trends in church and church school attendances in the last 10 or 15 years.

As early as the mid '50's the Friday evening preparatory services which preceded Communion Sundays were discontinued. By 1959 the Session began to discuss ways and means of altering the evening services to halt the gradual decline in attendance. By 1967 only a handful of persons regularly attended these services and so during the vacancy period Session discontinued them and they were never

resumed except for special occasions. Session minutes throughout the 60's and into the 70's record a gradual decline in attendances at special services such as Good Friday Communion and Christmas Day services as well as the number participating in the quarterly celebration of the sacraments. In the church school the average enrolment of well over 200 in the late 50's had declined to 186 in 1964 and to just over 100 in 1972.

It must be remembered, of course, that the social changes affecting the life of the Church in the past decade or more are not peculiar to St John's. They are typical of changes affecting all the major Churches and denominations. From the time of Church Union in 1925, the Presbyterian Church in Canada had grown steadily each year right up to 1964 whereupon a sharp decline set in. The great church building boom following the second world war continued not the early 60's when it almost came to a halt (Nations by membership declined by over 20,000 between 1965 and 1971 and church school enrolment from 712,157 to 672,531 during the same period). Therefore in this discussion of social changes affecting the recent history of St John's congregation it is important to realize that the challenge facing us here in our local community is the same challenge that confronts the Church of Christ everywhere in our modern secular society.

Ministry of Dr Smith

In an attempt to deal as effectively as possible with the challenges of the times in which we live many innovations and experiments have been carried out in recent years, some of which have been successful and some not so successful.

The Family of the Manse 1972
Mrs. Smith, Sheila, Fiona, Dr. Smith,
Neil, Lisa II

In order to maintain the work of the Congregation, meet our large commitments to the wider work of the Church in Canada and overseas, and launch out in new directions of witness it is necessary that all members take seriously their responsibilities to be good stewards of their financial resources. This has been carried out most thoroughly in recent years through the use of stewardship emphasis programmes designed to involve the whole congregation in this vital aspect of support for the Church's work and witness. It is amazing to note that in St. John's financial statement of 1953 it was reported that the Congregation had been unable to pay the Minister his full stipend during the year and still owed him $256.93 at year end. Happily this sort of precarious financial situation is a thing of the past thanks to the liberality of our members and the wise use of funds by Session and Board members.

It is with justifiable pride and satisfaction that we can say that for the past 15 years at east St. John's has been measured among Presbyterian Churches in Alberta in giving to the organ work of the Church. This tradition continues to the present day. In this our 90th anniversary year we have accepted the largest allocation in our history $9 900 for the General Assembly's Budget. In addition to this ongoing yearly commitment St. John's in 1968 accepted its full allocation of $18 664 to the National Development Fund of our Presbyterian Church. At the end of 1972 the Congregation had contributed $15 387 of this total — the largest amount per capita of any Church in our Alberta Synod. In 1972 the Congregation also donated over $500 to the new Varsity Acres Congregation in Calgary to assist them in erecting their church building.

This consistently high level of Christian liberality over the past two decades has enabled St. John's not only to meet its wider commitments but to provide large and adequate new facilities — the auditorium C.E. facilities renovated sanctuary new front and narthex — for congregational and community needs. In recent years an attempt has been made to allocate a larger share of our financial resources to people — to the training and development of our human resources. To this end the Session in 1969 and 1970 sent several groups of church school teachers and C.E. leaders to seminars and training events prior to and during the introduction of the new Christian Faith and Action curriculum. In 1971 and 1972 several office bearers were assisted in attending two Presbytery sponsored weekend retreats for elders and managers. Most significant of all St. John's sent no less than 8 delegates to the Presbyterian Congress at the University of Guelph, Ontario in June 1971. Made up of members of the Session, the young people and the ladies of St. John's our delegates (Susan Dodds, Gail Faulstich, Ronald Grant, Donald Grant, Eleanor Mehre, Marjorie Middleton, Geraldine and Chesley Schneider, and Winnifred Wilson) joined some 600 other delegates in a thrilling

and inspiring event that truly deepened and enriched their Christian faith and experience.

Among the most notable changes in the life of St. John's in the past decade have been experiments in the area of church worship and praise designed to encourage livelier and more active participation and involvement of the Congregation. In 1958 at Dr. Taylor's suggestion, certain changes had been made by Session in the regular Sunday morning order of worship in line with recommendations from the General Assembly and reflecting the newer insights into reformed worship. These changes were incorporated in the new Book of Common Order issued by the Assembly in 1964. During the first months of Dr. Smith's ministry in 1966 the Session authorized the use of the Service of Word and Sacrament as contained in the new Book of Common Order. This revised order for the celebration of the Sacrament restores many of the insights of earlier Reformed sacramental practice and includes congregational participation by means of a common prayer of confession and other responsive acts of worship.

In the musical portion of worship also the introduction of contemporary hymns and new tunes to familiar words has taken place. Both the Senior and Junior Choirs, absent the direction of Mrs. E. Pedersen have done much to prepare the contemporary music among the Congregation and they have assisted greatly in other new acts of Congregational worship where the people's participation is required. With the issuing of the revised Book of Praise in late 1972 (the first revision since 1918) the choirs are busy introducing many of the new hymns to the Congregation in preparation for the issuing of the new books to the people at a service in May. The gift of a new piano and for the Sanctuary by the Ladies Aid has also made possible piano accompaniment to certain musical presentations as well as fine organ-piano duets by Mrs. Elder and Mrs. Pedersen.

As noted in an earlier section in reference to our youth groups there had been for some time a strong desire on the part of our young people to more contemporary expressions of worship — not simply in the music and prayers but in the form of address or presentation. Consequently in the past four years beginning in 1969 the youth groups (age 15-19) have presented two or three contemporary youth services each year using a variety of formats — drama, drama-musical presentation — which have given opportunity for their own expressions of Christian worship and communication. At most of these the young people have led the praise with guitars and other instruments. In the spring of 1971 two such services were held one using excerpts from the popular rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" and the other using drama, readings and music on the theme "Who is Jesus?" Commenting on these services in the September 31 1971 newsletter Dr. Smith wrote "From what I and the other members of Session have gathered there was a rather mixed reaction to these

Youth Group 1972

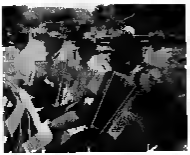
Some of the members with [illegible] Smith — Malcolm Sanders, Gerald Casale, Brendan Stringer, [illegible], David Sessions, Anne Ballantyne, Roberta Scobie, Susan Cadell.

and other "unorthodox" services presented in the past. Admittedly, they are not everybody's "cup of tea", but at our May and June meetings the Session discussed at some length these services. It was our feeling that we should convey to the congregation our involvement in the various experiments in contemporary worship have the full support and blessing of the Session. They do not represent a catering to the young people, but are rather a vital and necessary attempt to convey the gospel in new and vital terms to all people — young and old — of our day. It was felt that all of our members, even if they personally prefer the familiar hymns, prayers and format of the traditional service should be willing and eager to enter fully into the spirit and activity of these new forms of worship on various occasions. We must remember that our traditional service has evolved over many centuries and while it may still mean much to us personally and still convey the gospel adequately to our generation, such is not the case for multitudes outside the Church and even for many who are members of the Churches."

Another innovation in worship designed to stimulate congregational participation and reflection on the message of the sermon has been the practice, inaugurated in 1969, of having a short service (about 45 minutes) on the last Sunday of each month, followed by a question and discussion period, concluding with coffee and fellowship hour. These events have proved to be reasonably successful, especially when the sermon topic has lent itself to a stimulating and thought provoking discussion.

During June of both 1971 and 1972, St. John's held a morning service outdoors at Wellington's Farm at the edge of the city. Both were followed by a congregational lunch and picnic. The first of these was highly successful, but the second, which included an outdoor communion service, was cut short by inclement weather. At both of these events a congregational band composed of young people and older members, organized by Dorothy Hanley led the praise. This band has also played at two or three services in the Church in recent years.

Another feature of the past five years has been the regular monthly publication of a congregational newsletter, prepared by the Minister and Secretary. This newsletter first appeared on a monthly basis on June 3rd, 1968 (by coincidence the 65th anniversary of St. John's) and has been well received by the Congregation. It has proved to be an effective instrument for keeping St. John's members and adherents informed on all aspects of the life and work of the Church both locally and worldwide. While on the matter of communications, the summer of 1971 saw the installation of a public address system in the Sanctuary on a rental basis. This has proved to be very helpful to those with hearing difficulties.



St. John's Farewell for Rev. & Mrs. Wayne Johnson of 5th Avenue United Church

Orchestra at Service Wellington's Farm

In an effort to improve the continuity of attendance in the Church School a radical innovation was introduced in October 1970 whereby boys and girls in grades 1 to 9 (ages 6 - 14) attend sessions once a month on Sunday afternoons (rather than on a weekly basis on Sunday mornings. Following the general format of a Vacation Church School with recreational periods interspersed between teaching sessions, the afternoon begins with lunch together following the morning service and concludes at 4.30. This new Church School format has been extremely successful especially in ensuring continuity of attendance in a congregation where many highly mobile families are absent from the city at least one or two Sundays a month. This unique experiment is now in its third year and its success has sparked interest and enquiry from numerous sources across our Church in Canada.

To conclude this modest record mention should be made of one very significant recent change which took place in the law and government of the Presbyterian Church whereby women for the first time were made eligible for ordination to the ministry and eldership. By action of the General Assembly in 1966 this long overdue change took place which now makes it possible for women equally with men to have a share in governing and decision making processes of the Church. Since 1966, women have had access as Ministers and Elders to all courts of the Church — Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly — from which they had previously been barred. History was made in St. John's in 1969 when our first two women elders were elected to the Sessions in the persons of Margaret Dawkes and Linda Flagg. Since their ordination and induction they have proved to be among our most competent and diligent elders.

Conclusion

This 90 year history of St. John's now comes to a close. Its pages have recorded the successes and failures, the strengths and weaknesses, the joys and the heartaches of many hundreds of men and women and children who have worshipped and served the cause of Christ in and through this Congregation. There is a story of courage and faith — the struggle of a handful of members with meagre resources to establish a Presbyterian witness in a tiny pioneer community, the faith and dedication of a Congregation of only 75 members in building in 1902 the fine Sanctuary seating 450 in a community of only 1,570 persons, the hardships and losses endured through two long and tragic wars, the sad era of mass unemployment and deprivation of the depression years, the commitment and sacrifice required to erect the badly needed educational and recreational facilities which serve us so well today.

From these pioneers and fathers in the faith we of St. John's today have received a goodly heritage. May we be worthy of their labours and their trust as we strive to meet the challenges and opportunities of this time in which God has set us.

DONALD C. SMITH

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr. Edwin McKenzie
Chairman of Anniversary Celebration Committee

Church Service June 3, 1973, 11 a.m
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Guest Preacher Dr. R. L. Taylor
Dr. D. C. Smith, Minister
Choir led by Mrs. R. E. Pedersen
Service broadcast and recorded courtesy of
Radio Station CHAT

1:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon Medicine Hat College
2:30 p.m. Program in Medicine Hat College Theatre

MINISTERS WHO SERVED ST JOHN S CONGREGATION
1883 1973

EARLY SUPPLY MINISTERS

Name	Arrived	Left
Rev Angus Robertson Missionary	June 1 1883	June 4 1883
Mr David Anderson B.A.	April 23 1884	October 1884
Rev Thomas Davidson M.A	November 1884	Aug. 22 1885

RESIDENT MINISTERS

Rev James Hamilton B.A. B.D	November 1885	March 1890 Died
Rev Angus J. McLeod B.A.	May 1890	March 1891
Rev Charles Stephen B.A., B.D	April 1891	Sept. 30 1891
Rev J. A Jaffary	October 1896	May 18 1896
Rev James Merrow M.A. LL.B.	June 1 1896	June 30 1918
Rev Thomas Wilson	Oct. 11 1918	January 1926
Rev Thomas McCosham B.A.	Feb. 1st 1926	Nov. 10 1927
Rev M. Stewart Blackburn	March 14 1928	September 1937
Rev W.D.G. Holdsworth B.A.	Jan. 16 1938	June 1940
Rev Wilfred Belcher B.A.	June 1940	Dec. 21 1941
Rev Rodt L. Taylor B.A. D.D.	June 1943	June 25 1967
Dr. D.C. Smith B.A. B.D. Ph.D	Feb. 25 1968	

Note: Degrees are listed as of the time these Ministers served St. John's

ELDERS OF ST JOHN S CHURCH

Date of Election	Name
1880	Wm. Cowan J. Macguire, Thos. Tweed Geo. McCuaig
1881	John Young
1907	David White, W. R. Hay Rob. Mitchell, James Wilson, C. Pentt
1913	J. T. Bell, Wm. Rutherford, H. Stewart, H. O. Duncan, Dr. W. McDonald, R. C. Porter, P. Robertson
1918	J. A. Cameron, E. W. Thomas A. Baillie, T. F. Reynolds
1918	T. McFeeters, J. W. Hamilton, H. Stewart, Wm. C. Lawford Jas. M. Kinnell
1925	A. W. Bell, F. Ferguson, S. Martin, John Mill, E. A. Bell, J. Cameron J. Millson
1928	R. Clarke, W. Rawson R. Kennedy, P. Fleischauer Dr. J. C. Mitchell, J. J. Nott
1938	G. B. Thomson, Thos. Murray Ralph Camden, Stan Weldon Geo. Hewston
Note	Records are missing from 1938 to 1948
1949	J. L. Wyatt, Herb. Lucking Dan McLeod, J. McPhail
1952	V. Oglethorpe, Allan Cooter
1957	Dr. S. G. Elder, E. Foyle, *D. S. Grant, Dick Kendrick, R. Pettigrew, Wm. Rutherford
1961	*J. Telfold, R. Gemmill, J. G. McArthur
1965	J. Cooke, L. Shaver, I. A. Eggens, B. A. Scott, H. Wallace, McLaren Ewart
1968	A. Ferguson, M. Chetland, R. de Jong, H. S. Milton, *J. C. Fish, *A. J. Wilson
1969	Ian Mackenzie, I. Montgomerie, Dr. Ian Moore, O. Nelson
1972	*D. S. Hawthorne, *E. McKenzie, D. E. J. Smith, *Dr. V. W. Sobey
1966	*W. Fenwick, F. Hegarty, *Val Mitchell, Ed. Nielsen, *Perth Forde, Glen Yuill
1966	A. Harden, *G. Hinton, J. Richardson, *H. Scrimshon, *C. Schneider, D. Tickle
1969	*Geo. Cooke, *Mrs. G. Dowlow, *J. Freeman, *Eric Lloyd, *G. Pitura, *W. J. Stroome, *Mrs. Enid Fitch
1971	*D. J. Wreath, *C. B. Shave, *G. H. Stevens, *D. Van Wyngaarden

St JOHN'S CLERKS OF SESSION
SIX ONLY IN 87 YEARS

William Cousins
1846 - 1910

Andrew Scott
1910 - 1935

James Clelland
1905 - 1927

John K
1927 - 1950

Alan Guelke
1950 - 1954

Donald Grant
1954
The present Clerk of Session

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

1854 - 206

CHAIRMEN	SECRETARY TREASURERS
Mr Thos Davidson	Mr Sam Archibald
Mr Thos Tweed (8 years)	Mr R W McClung (2 years)
Mr J Horner	Mr R Sage (2 years)
Mr John Young	Mr J Hargrave (17 years)
Rev J W Morrow	
Mr W Cousins	
Mr Henry Stewart	

Managers Minute Books are missing from March 1866 - October 1918
1918 - 1965

J Y Bell	T H Reed (2 years)
E A Bell	J A Bell (7 years)
Dr O Ivor Boyd	R F Stimpson
Mr John Hill (2 years)	T A Allchalhead
Mr A E Davies	J C Parker
Dr J C Hardy (2 years)	Mr Sam Short (1926 - 1946)
Mr J M Taylor	
Mr Roy Cunliffe	
Mr Thos Murray	
Mr J A Bell	

Managers Minute Books are missing from 1936 to 1946.

1946 Mr J W McLaren 2 years	Mr John Hill 1946
1948-50 Dr G G Ecker 2 years	Mr J A Barrie 1948 to 1973
1951-57 Mr Maurice Stone 7 years	
1958-59 J F Hall	
1960 Dr J L Waite	
1961-62 Mr John Hodgson 2 years	
1963-65 Mr Gerald Grant 3 years	
1966-6 Mr Harry Yu 3 years	
1967 Mr Harold R Richardson 3 years	

Members believed to have served as Chairmen during 1833 -1946.

J C Beveridge	W L Gordyne
R B Belcher	Thos. J Taylor

The Historical Committee offers a more complete list of St. John's members whose names may have been omitted in this book due to lack of records.

Officers of St. John's for many years

Mr Samuel Short
1926 - 946

Maurice Stone
Chairman
1951 - 1957

Mr J A Barrie
1948 - 1973

TRIBUTE TO TWO SENIOR ELDERS

We wish to pay tribute to two senior Elders who were members in our Congregation sixty years ago and who are still active in St. John's.

McLaren Ewart

John Cuthbertson

McLaren Ewart is a grandson of our first resident minister Rev. James Herald. He was born and raised in Medicine Hat joining St. John's in 1926, before going to Queen's University. During his residence in Moose Jaw Sask., he became an Elder in the church there. Upon retiring to Medicine Hat to live he was elected to eldership here in 1955 rendering valuable service as a member of our Session for several years. He is presently a member of the Historical Comm. for this book.

John Cuthbertson came to Calgary from Scotland then to Medicine Hat where he joined our church in 1913. Following service during World War I he returned to Canada and spent his life in the banking profession. While living in Red Deer he was elected to eldership there in 1941. He and his wife moved to Medicine Hat which has been their permanent home for many years. In 1946 Mr. Cuthbertson was elected as an Elder in St. John's, and is still serving faithfully on the Session. In 1972 he requested retirement, but was persuaded to continue because of the need for his wisdom and counsel in church procedure.

HISTORY OF HILLSIDE CEMETERY MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

A study of the minutes of the Board of Managers of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat reveals the little-known fact that it was our Church that first acquired and owned the 40 acres of land which later became known as Hillside Cemetery. This acreage became the nucleus of the present large area eventually owned by the City of Medicine Hat. Our Church held title to the original 40 acres until 1907 and then a portion of it until 1914.

The story of the property began in 1885, when the body of little Cecil E. S. Hargreave age two years nine months was buried at a spot on the prairie about two miles south-west of the hamlet, and near the creek in Fort MacLeod. There must have been a verbal agreement with some official of the Dominion Government land office for such a decisive action to be taken. It was not until December 1886, that it was stated in the Board minutes that the government grant of 40 acres could probably be obtained in sub-division 9 of section 25 in township 12 range 6 west of the 4th meridian in the provincial District of Assiniboia in the North-West Territories. Mr. William Cousins and Mr. Herald were appointed to secure the land and on Jan 25 they reported that the Dominion Lands Commission had written showing a strong possibility of granting it for the purpose of a Cemetery. The matter was pursued and finally on Dec 2 1892 the deed was issued, the land being given to the Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat from the Dominion Government.

It was the rule of the Presbyterian Church in Canada that titles to property of congregations not free of debt, be held by the Church and Manse Building Fund so the deed was issued to the Board of Management of the Church and Manse Building Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for Manitoba and the North-West Medicine Hat Assiniboia.

On April 12 1893 the minister Rev. Mr. Stephen and Mr. Fisher reported to the Board that they had visited the Cemetery in which burials had taken place since 1886. They found and located the boundaries of the area and Mr. McTavish offered to stake it out. A full year passed before they decided to have the property fenced specific directions for this being recorded. The fence was to be made of 8 x 1 boards 4 ft high painted with a 4" space between one a base board 8" wide. A sketch made by Mr. McGrath was considered satisfactory and he was asked to make a plan of same. Mr. McKivick was hired to build the fence and at the Board meeting on Aug. 7 1894 it was agreed that Mr. Foley furnish the lumber for the fence until definite arrangements could be made. On Dec. 3 the accounts were presented showing the cost of the lumber as being $140.24 while the labor of Mr. McKivink and Mr. McGrath amounted to $42.00

Mr Cousins surveyed the property and it was decided that lots be sold as follows 4 x 10 $2.50 8 x 10 $5.00 16 x 10 $10.00 Mr James Hargrave was appointed Custodian of the plan of the Cemetery being authorized to purchase the necessary books cost later reported as $19.00

In February 1896 it was decided to place a notice in the Medicine Hat News stating that "lots in Hillside Public Cemetery are open for inspection and sale" Mr Tweed suggested that a second copy of the survey be made and the original kept in a safe place. In July the Board agreed to let the Methodist Church have lots in the Cemetery in a block, to be at the same price as sold to others.

By October 1896 the existance of the financial burden carried by St Johns was apparent when the Board made a motion that all accounts owing against the Cemetery be collected and a sum of money borrowed to pay them off. This situation arose because strangers and paupers were buried in the Cemetery and no other denomination assumed the expense of the lots.

In November 1897 Mr Hargrave resigned as Custodian and Mr Cousins was elected in his place. At the annual meeting of the Church in January 1898 the Cemetery report showed a debt of $740.00. However in April the Board paid the interest applied the cash on hand on the principal and took out a new note. The church records give no further reference to the Cemetary until 1906 when at a Congregational meeting it was suggested that the Cemetery be put in decent shape and that trees be planted so on May 23 a Committee was appointed to look after this An attempt was made to hire a caretaker but at the meeting next year the Committee reported that it was difficult to get anyone However the property had been fenced and more lots surveyed

A new Cemetery Committee was appointed in April 1907 the Members being Messrs Morrow Stewart, Milne and DesBrisay with Mr Milne to look after the books This Committee met and decided to arrange a meeting with the Citizens Committee to see if they would guarantee the amount of money required to assist in making improvements to the Cemetery grounds. This Committee would give a note to the Presbyterian Church the proceeds to be used for a caretakers salary and other improvements. They also asked the Citizens Committee and the Hospital Board to go with them to City Council regarding expenses of burying paupers. Apparently the financial responsibilities named by our Church was finally comprehended by the people of the town because the sum of $800.00 was soon promised to the Chairman of our Committee part of the being turned over to him A house was built on the property and a well dug this being the first time the writer was available Also, graves put on the walks by mistake were moved to lots

By April 15, 1907 there were 233 graves in Hillside Cemetery. The City wanted some of our land to put a road through so they acquired 20 acres of the 40 owned by us. When the road was finally completed it reduced our acreage to 184 acres on which we continued to pay taxes until 1914.

St. John's Board of Managers decided at a meeting on April 28 1907 that it was time to obtain the deed for the Cemetery property from the Church & Manse Fund in Winnipeg and get it registered in the name of a Board of Trustees for St. John's. So on June 20 1907 a Congregational Meeting was called at which time the Members of this Cemetery Board were elected namely, Frederick Collins, William Finlay, David Milne, A. F. Burns, Henry Stewart and James Hargrave. The transfer was received on March 12, 1908, with the names listed above on the title. The deed was deposited in the bank.

Minute books of the Board of Managers are lacking after 1908 for some time, but the records at City Hall show that St. John's continued to pay taxes on 184 acres of the Cemetery property until March 31, 1914. At that time it was turned over to the City, thus ending a period of responsibility and worry assumed by the men of St. John's Church for 28 years.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Ladies' Aid of St. John's

The Minute Books of the Ladies' Aid are almost complete from 1918 up to the present time, and it is with pride that we present a record of their accomplishments. They had been organized for 20 years previous to 1918 but we cannot guess their activities during that early period.

A few statistics will give the reader an idea of their known achievements since then.

From 1918 to 1972 inclusive, the Ladies' Aid raised		$77,712.00
They spent this in every field of church work		
Repairs and re-decorating of the church		$ 5,525.00
Repairs, re-decorating and equipment of manse		10,422.00
Equipment for church kitchen		5,167.00
Cash assistance to Bd. of Managers		
For St. John's Budget	7,632.00	
For back manse Building	2,552.00	
For General Assembly Budget	2 086.00	12 270.00
Small addition to church basement 1941		3 187.00
Furnishings and equipment for congregation		6 076.00
Donations to occupants of manse		8 422.00
		$47 882.00

One of the earliest contributions given was towards the brick Manse when members gave $1,000.00 at the time the building was erected. As the Managers found it very difficult to finance the mortgage payments in 1922 and again in 1924 they asked the ladies to take over complete responsibility for the Manse, but they refused. However they did pay additional sums totaling $1,552.00 toward the mortgage and taxes and the property was cleared of debt about 1926.

Our church members were certainly not afraid to assume financial responsibilities because long before the Manse debt was paid the Managers decided to install a pipe organ in the Sanctuary. This had been talked of for some years, and finally in 1918 a Casavant organ was installed, the Ladies Aid donated $500.00 toward this.

Since women's work has always included household duties and furnishing, that has been one of the main spheres of interest of the Ladies Aid since its inception. From the time of the erection of the brick church in 1902, it can be safely stated that this Group has provided most of the equipment in our church. There were no fascinating problems for a good many years in the Sanctuary but the gnome haunted the big hot-air vents at the front of the building fairly necessitated re-decorating, so in 1921 the Ladies Aid had this done by Mr. Caldwell at a cost of $732.00. Again in 1930 they paid Mr. Kennedy $650.00 for a similar work. The Board of Managers has always been most appreciative of all the things done by the women, as evidenced in their account of the annual meeting of Jan. 17, 1923. At that time, Mr. Jack Bell, the Church Secretary recorded that although times were adverse, the Ladies' Aid organization had raised $900.00 some of their disbursements including a handsome donation of $150.00 to the Managers toward the taxes, which was putting out the usual attitude of this most efficient organization.

Assistance in keeping up the Manse was given many times over the years including re-decorating and alterations to the grounds. The kitchen was altered and re-built about three times, but no furnishings were supplied to the home until the 40's, when enough electrical equipment was scarce, the ladies bought a refrigerator in 1944. During the years since that time they have gradually assumed responsibility for supplying stove, washer, dryer, dishwasher, window drapes, and in 1968 wall to-wall carpet for the entire main floor, stairway and upper hall.

Small obligations assumed over the years were paid faithfully for a long time, some of these being:

Payment of $24.00 per year for 46 years towards the Traveller's Aid Society work at meeting passenger trains.

Payment of quarterly gratuity to Mr. Cartwright for 33 years, — $2,000.00 for janitorial services.

Support of a Home Missionary in 1914	$ 250.00
Chinese Relief Fund for famine relief in 1921	$ 200.00
Donations - Cash to Women's Missionary Society and Guilds 1822 to 1872	$ 498.00
Camp Kennekwin, Sylvan Lake, 1917 - 1953	$ 250.00
Gowns, Mortar Boards and Surplices, Four Choirs 1923	$1 078.00
Cash donations to Choir for music 1925 - 1952	$ 378.00
Presbyterian Training School in Medicine Hall 1951	$ 325.00
The new Ewart College, Toronto 1961	$ 400.00
Gift to Presbytery for Deaconess' war 1966	$ 200.00
Gift to the Board of Managers for Varsity Acres Church 1972	$ 150.00

From the earliest records available, we know that the Ladies' Aid has considered that visiting the sick was one of their most important duties. Christian Stewardship, and this has been carried out faithfully for over 80 years. Recently, the visiting has been re-organized, due to the opening of several Nursing Homes and two Hospitals.

This is now under the supervision of a Convenor or an Key-Woman, with all of the Ladies' groups participating. Flowers have always been sent to families of bereaved members of St. Johns, this having been done by the late Mrs. John Hill until 1953 and then supervised by Mrs. Myr. Smith for the past 20 years. The Circles remember their own sick members but the Ladies' Aid pays for flowers for all shut ins at Christmas time. In 1972 the Members delivered the flowers personally before Christmas.

Mrs. Lorne La Rose

Present Ladies Aid 1948
and
Sixty-year Member

Some of the methods of raising money are listed here

1883 A meeting social
1902 An ice-cream social in the Rink.
1910 Concert and Tea at the home of Mrs. Smith
1910 to 1972 Christmas Bazaar every year
1911 Welsh Choir Concert, Several Choirs Teas
1914 Concert by Mr. and Mrs. Duggan at the Bazaar
1915 Concert by Mrs. W. H. Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Duggan
1921 Rummage Sales became an annual event
1921 A play - The Old Maids Convention
1926 Thanksgiving Supper given for many years
1928 Recital by Mrs. Blackstock.
1932 A play given twice Director Mrs. Molly Currie

1933 A play given twice by Mrs. Currie and Mr. Blanchard
1935 Recipe by Mrs. G. G. Elder
1944 Ladies catered every week for the summer to the Rotarians for their noon luncheon (after the Assiniboia Hotel on Third Street burned down)
1948 Cabaret in High School Gymnasium Dinner
1958 Annual Strawberry Tea given every year since that time
Cook Books were printed and sold by several groups over the years

The strength of the Ladies Aid is directly attributed to the Circles, especially since 1918 when the President suggested that the members divide into groups and each Circle meet and work separately. The idea was immediately accepted by the end of the year 1921 the Circles turned in $655.00. In the year 1930 some of these Groups began to give their own Annual Spring Teas usually in members homes and these were quite the highlight of the year for each Circle Tea by the Ladies Aid were dropped until about 1960 when one large Spring Tea was organized in the Church Hall by all of the Circles, and the one for Teas were discontinued, thus completing a cycle and reverting to their original method. In recent years the Ladies Aid has become an Executive for the Circle Members who turn over all their money which is their interest as the Members direct. The membership and interest in both the Circles and the Ladies Aid have dwindled alarmingly in recent years as more and more younger women enter the business world and do not have the time to give to the work of the women's organizations in St. John's.

Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne
Member of St. John's
1901 - 1972

The reader may well wonder how a group of women could possibly accomplish so much during the history of the Church and we can only state that it has been carried out by several generations of devoted ladies who gave freely of their talents and time in the past 90 years.

In recognition of the services rendered to St. John's by our Ladies Aid we hereby list the names of the Presidents as far back as the records permit.

1903	Mrs. J. H. Spencer	1942	Mrs. J. B. Morrison
1918-1919	Mrs. J. Ewart	1948	Mrs. C. Bowles
1919-1920	Mrs. (Ewart) Monroe	95	Mrs. W. C. Campbell
1920-1921	Mrs. J. W. Ham Roe	195	Mrs. A. Marshall
1922	Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne	1962	Mrs. Ron Leisner

1923-1926 Mrs. Alex McDougall
1926-1936 Mrs. Nicholson
Hilhenny Presbyterian
1937 Mrs. Fred Russel
1920-1933 Mrs. S. W. Wright
1930-33 Mrs. J. A. (Ida) McCombe
1932 Mrs. Purvis
1933-1934 Mrs. Chas. Richardson
1935 Mrs. John Hill
1936-1937 Mrs. Ernest King
1938-1939 Mrs. C. A. MacKinnon
1940 Mrs. Lorne Laidlaw
1941 Mrs. Earl Cooper
1942 Mrs. Herbert Stevens
1943 Mrs. E. C. Amery
1944 Mrs. Tom Taylor
1945-1946 Mrs. A. Mills
1947 Mrs. Wm. Pushie

1953 Mrs. J. Hegarty
1954 Mrs. J. Fitzgerald
1955 Mrs. J. E. (Lisa) Davies
1956 Mrs. Les White
1957 Mrs. A. Kooyman
1958 Mrs. J. L. Wyatt
1959 Mrs. Sam Gold
1960 Mrs. E. T. Lyon
19 Mrs. Ross Grant
1962 Mrs. Alan Hunter
1963 Mrs. Jack Simons
1964-1966 Mrs. Ye Marshall
1965 Mrs. Antonius Ruisey
1967 Mrs. R. H. (Gwen) Mitchell
1968 Mrs. Tom Stevens
1969 Mrs. Vern Sibley
1970-1972 Mrs. M. F. McKenzie
1973 Mrs. W. E. Bailey

THE CIRCLES OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The Ladies' Aid minutes of March 1921 report that the Circles had been organized. There must have been seven groups but their titles were not listed only the names of the Convenors being given as follows:-

Mrs. J. C. Hargrave
Mrs. F. Ferguson
Mrs. Shenuis
Mrs. Robert Rutherford
Mrs. Turner
Mrs. R. C. Reeves
Mrs. R. C. Beeks

St. John's Hill Circle

Mrs. Gold

Mrs. Kent

The Hill Circle was organized in the early 1920's as Mrs. J. Fitzgerald remembers attending one in after she was married in 1923. The Circle worked with the Ladies' Aid at teas and bazaars to help out financially. For a few years they held their own sprring teas with Mrs. Tom Graham and Mrs. Barney Crockett giving their homes for these events. One spring, the tea was held at the High School Dormitory when Mrs. A. O. Faulkner was Housemother there. She also assisted the members in catering to two or three weddings. One year when Mrs. Herbert Stevens was the Convenor, the Circle made

$1 000.00 for the Ladies Aid. The membership has dropped from its high to an average of eight ladies, with Mrs. Sam Goldie acting as Convener for the past twelve years.

Members in Recent Years

Mrs. McKee	Mrs. V. Marshall	Mrs. A. Ruhey	Mrs. B. R. Kent	
Mrs. J. MacArthur	Mrs. Teole	Mrs. L. Gust	Mrs. E. Purtle	
Mrs. Koopman	Mrs. Goldie	Mrs. M. M'Intie	Mrs. T. Montgomerie	
Mrs. A. E. Foulkes	Mrs. Sims	Miss Eberly	Mrs. H. Rachel Gooh	
Mrs. S. Brown	Mrs. E. Fords	Mrs. M. Smith	Mrs. J. Hegarty	
Mrs. F. Neab	Miss N. Morrison	Mrs. A. Mcintosh	Mrs. M. Blythe	

Northside Circle

There are no records of this circle prior to 1957, but we think that the circle was formed some time around 1925. In the early days the ladies held "bame" teas to raise money they also sold fancy work and home knit articles. At one time they put on a play "Old Maid's Return" and realized a considerable sum of money from this. As the years went by the ladies helped with bazaars, dinners and sold fancy work, hand knit sox, mitts and novelties. They also had several rummage sales to raise money.

Some of the things they have purchased for the church have been:

lamp and table for the parlor	—	1957
2 dining chairs for the parlor	—	1958
hostess cart for the kitchen	—	1961
t.v. trays for the parlor	—	1963

various small articles including hand-embroidered tea towels for the kitchen.

They started a "Name" apron in 1961 the idea being to get as many names of women in the church (men too if they wanted to contribute) embroidered on the apron. There were 7 sections or panels to it and the charge was 25¢ per name. There were 207 names on it when it was completed after 2 years when it was presented to Mrs. R. L. Taylor at our Xmas party in 1963.

Our meetings all open with a short devotion, and we have had an average of 14 - 15 women over the years.

Members of Northside Circle

Mrs. Mitchell	Mrs. M. O'Reilley	Mrs. H. Dickey	Mrs. E. Jackson
Mrs. J. Jordan	Mrs. A. Peters	Mrs. J. Yaneshak	Mrs. E. Bradley
Mrs. Rutherford	Mrs. M. Sack	Mrs. A. Campbell	Mrs. R. Patton
Mrs. Ramp	Mrs. C. Philp	Mrs. E. Gold	Mrs. M. Sellings
Mrs. Porter	Mrs. M. Laing	Mrs. Weld	Mrs. J. Smith
Mrs. J. Hicks	Mrs. Hazzard	Mrs. Nixon	Mrs. B. Muir
Mrs. McNeil/Mrs.	Mrs. M. Tayler	Mrs. Stanley	Mrs. M. Brown
Mrs. McFee	Mrs. J. Taylor	Mrs. Ross	
Mrs. Mc ntosh	Miss M. Smith	Mrs. Slate	
Mrs. M. Rose	Mrs. Brown Milne	Mrs. Cook	
Mrs. A. McMillan	Mrs. Hyde	Mrs. Pashe	

Northside Circle

Back Row, left to right, Ethel Jackson, Marion Bank, Mona Rowe, Betty Meier, Maude Berridge, Carrie Pike

Front Row left to right: Jean Steers, Alice McMullan, Melba O'Riley, Ann Howe, Rose Patton

The Thursday Club

In 1946 a large group of energetic young married women was organized by Mrs. Gordon Sissons for the purpose of providing a few special amenities for the entire Congregation. Their first project was the installation of hearing aids in the Sanctuary for members who needed them. Then they bought hostess chairs for the parlor, the comfort being enjoyed by groups meeting there ever since.

Mrs. Gordon Sissons
Dedicated Hospital Visitor

Perhaps their most helpful undertaking was the furnishing of the nursery for babies and tiny tots. The bassinets were called in to assist in the Jim Prell installed the intercom so that the babysitters could listen to the sermon. Jack Harris and Don Lefever laid the flooring, and Amy Hargrave made the drapes. Cribs and toys were donated by all of the members.

Money for the various projects was raised by the annual Strawberry Tea, held in the spring, the event so popular that finally the entire Ladies Aid joined in to help with this event. Recently the

membership of the Club has diminished greatly, but the members still meet and their present project is knitting afghans for our shut-in members whom they visit regularly.

Nursery Time at St. John's

The Third Street Circle

Mrs. W. C. Campbell

This Circle was organized about 1921 when Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne was the president of the Ladies Aid. The group has worked consistently for over fifty years by members living: Mrs. Spruce, Mrs. J. E. (Florence) Davies, Mrs. Harold (Lou) Patten, Jessie Cousins Elliott, Mrs. W. C. Campbell, Mrs. Lyle Wyatt, Dorothy Dewes, Grant Lyall, Christie Marjorie Yuill, Mary Stone, Myrre Wright.

The unusual money-raising project carried out by these ladies was a "Parade of Homes" when several dwellings in the city were opened for inspection. Mills Hawthorne used her talents many times in carrying out decorative themes for the bazaars while Emma Campbell was the inspiration and mainstay of this Circle for many years.

Members of the Third Street Circle

Anna Armstrong
Pearl Cuthbertson
Susie Ewart
Maude Horne
Hazen Mitchell
Isabel Mogridge
Anne Selby
Jean Williamns

Emma Campbell
Una Davies
Berta Hamilton
Dorothy McFarlane
Jessie Murray
Lou Preston
Dorothy Stewart
Myrtle Wright

Grace Coultas
Elsie Gardner
Mina Hawbolgine
Beatrice McNichol
Mary Mann
Edith Rutherford
Rachel Tuffnell

Inactive Members — Edith Bacon and Elsie Gibbons

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

How can a small History Book pay tribute to the Members of the Choir who gave so freely of their time for Sunday Services, weekday practices, and all of the special occasions as needed? St. John's has always been blessed with dedicated choir members who have used their talents freely to enrich the services and lead the Congregation in praise.

We know from the records in this book that our first church was built in 1884 and that 50 chairs and 30 hymn books were ordered from Winnipeg in the way of equipment. The fact that an organ was purchased was not recorded, but we have definite proof that one was received from information that came to light recently. Apparently Lucy Walsh Bailey was our organist from 1884 to 1885. When she left Medicine Hat our church gave her a Bible, the inscription in it stating that it was presented to her for her services as the first Organist 1884 - 1885. Her grandson B. L. Canfield of Benton Harbor, Michigan visited our church recently giving us this interesting piece of history. As further proof of our possession of the instrument, in March 1885, our Sunday School donated $10.00 toward the organ.

We must also have had a choir to use these. S. Hermanized Hymnals," since the name of one of these choir members was Mrs. Frank Mitchell. She was presented with a Bible on the occasion of her marriage in the church on June 11, 1890, this being the first wedding of a member in our church.

In July 1900 Mrs. Ewart retired as Organist, and the Managers were very pleased to recognize her services with the presentation of a gift, the value to be $50.00. Miss Black was then engaged as Organist with a salary of $1.00 per Sunday. After the brick church was built in 1902, we learn that a boy was employed to pump the organ at $1.00 per month. This being increased in 1904 to $2.50 per month. Two of these organ boys are still living here today. — McLaren Ewart, who is a retired Elder of the Church, and Carl Hargrave of Redcliff.

youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hargrave, original Members of this Church in 1853. Carl remembers a very embarrassing incident in connection with his duties when he tells that as he was pumping the organ one Sunday morning, the Congregation was startled by a loud bang from the organ. McLaren, realizing what had gone wrong, rushed up to his assistance and found that the bellows had become inflated from the frame of the instrument on one side. In causing this disturbance. The two boys soon repaired the damage and the singing proceeded.

A former member of our choir who achieved renown in musical circles throughout North America, a Mr. Reginald Stewart, who sang in St. John's Choir as a young man, when his father was the Organist here for several months from 1914 to 1915. Both Mr. Stewart and Reginald became members of St. John's, and gave of their musical talents to the Congregation. Reginald went on to become Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and still later of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

The little organ must have been used for a long time, but in 1915 a "Hay" organ was put into the church by the company promising it but the Choir wouldn't have it, and even the Sunday School teachers didn't want it, so the owners were offered to remove it. A piano was purchased and used for a time, and then finally, in 1918 a Casavant pipe organ was installed, and is still being used, having been rebuilt in 1958. The addition of a Hammond piano in the Sanctuary in 1970, purchased by the Ladies Aid, has given variety to the type of music presented, and is used to accompany the children's choirs and for organ-piano duets.

Over the years, our Choir achieved a fine reputation, since when they entered the Provincial Music Festival in 1924 and 1925 they were winners of the top award. However they were suddenly faced with a fine emergency in 1926 when the Organist Miss McKay decided not to go with them to Edmonton. Mr. Sutherland asked Mrs. G. G. Elder, an accomplished musician and a newcomer to our congregation, to help out by accompanying the Choir. She consented and St. John's Choir won the Short Shield for the second time. This action on the part of Mrs. Elder is typical of her generosity throughout the years in coming to the assistance of our Choir and Minister by giving so freely of her musical talents to assist in worship services at

Mrs. G. G. Elder

St. John's. In 1957 when Miss Zwicker left, Mrs. Elber conducted the music for several months persuading the Choir Members to enter the Rotary Festival. Mrs. Aurline Tanner Lewis used her talents to train the choir so they won the Mildred Hat Brick & Tile Shield at the Rotary Festival.

Every year the choir has enriched the services at Christmas, Easter and the Anniversaries with Cantata, anthems and special music often with guest soloists. They have also arranged organ recitals which were greatly enjoyed and which replenished the choir funds for the purchase of music for their library. In the matter of choir gowns our choir must have been garbed with proper gowns for many years but there is no record of their purchase. However in 1923, when the Ladies Aid bought 1st new gowns it is remarked that the old gowns were repaired and the gown cupboard enlarged. Over the years the Aid has replenished the supply as needed, then in 1962 the Board of Managers purchased the beautiful blue gowns presently in use.

A Junior Choir was first organized in 1936 by Mrs. Novak and the children have added great interest to the services, especially at Christmas and Easter. The time and devotion given by our Choir Leaders and the assistants in drawing the children of the Congregation into active participation in our services of praise contribute immeasurably to their Christian education and life. At the time of writing, we have both an Intermediate and a Junior Choir with about 30 children taking part every Sunday in the worship service.

A very complete and detailed history of our choir from 1825 up to the present time has been compiled by Dorothy Hanley who is herself a valued member and one of the assistants with the Junior Choir. All special music rendered each year with membership and officers has been listed in the choir history and we would like to print a great deal of this interesting information but space does not permit. However we will close this sketch with the names of the present choir members in 1973.

Organist and choir Director — Mabel Pedersen

Agnes Bellamy	Joyce Harps	Ann Van-Der-Kaaden
Bev Bensch	Alice Anne Hawthorne	Linda Wykstra
Eva Brier	Margaret Mew	Jan Benke
Dorothy Burton	Mabel McKenzie	Ed McKenzie
Barbara Estes	Margaret Smith	George Plews
Mabel Ford	Dorothy Hanley	Jack Stearns

ORGANISTS AND CHOIR LEADERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 1884 - 1972

1884 - 95	Lucy Wilson Bailey
1895	Miss Wellpond
1896	Mrs. J. F. Rankin - resigned
1900	Mrs. Ewart - resigned

1903 June	Miss Mullins Mrs Harry Tweed
1906 July	Mr Flanagan
1908 January	Mr Bates
1912 - 13	Miss New it
1914 — June 1915	Mr George Stewart
1918 February 1918	Miss L R Duggan (Mrs G Blackstock)
1918 March	Mr Hudson
1919 — April	Mr Robert Hogg
1920 January	Mr A J Hatch
1922 March Dec 1924	Mr Thornton Fessant
1924 — May	Miss McKay
1926 June June 1934	Mr Robert Ballea — Choir Leader
	Mrs George Batsonda White — Organist
1934 Sept — June 1945	Mrs Frank Hewitt
1945 Sept. 1950	Mrs Eileen McKee
1953 1954	Mrs G G. Elder
Sept. 1954 Dec. 1964	Mr Denis Ryan
1955 Jan June 1956	Miss Thelma Atkinson
1956 Sept.—Nov 1957	Miss Vera Zwicker
1957 Dec. June 1958	Mrs R G Bole
Sept. 1960 June 1968	Mr Marvin Chris
1968 Sept.—	Mrs R E Pedersen

ST JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 1884 1973

Remember when? Do you remember when you attended St John s Sunday Schoo ? perhaps borrowed books from the church school library?— recited the catechism? — performed n the Christmas pageant? — ran races at the Sunday School p cnic when the weather permitted or watched movies or film strips f the weather was wet? sang w th great lustargusion Jesus Loves Me and Fees. carrels for you — (He careth for you)? made the effort to attend regular y to achieve e diploma and seals? Are any of these memories yours?

The first Sabbath Sunday School record under the jurisdiction of the province of Manitoba dates back to June 29 1884 and continues on to 1884. It is interesting to note the number of pupils in the first year ranged from seven to twenty-four and the collection from 5¢ to 42.45 per Sabbath. These pup ls were d vided into four classes — are any of these names familiar to you?

TEACHER Mrs Archibald PUPILS Edith Porter Elizabeth Porter Jenn e Tweed Kate Cochran Ehen Walton Charlotte Davie

TEACHER Mr David Anderson PUPILS Eddie Walton, Thomas Bassett Fred Allot Alfred Bassett James Norquay and Colin Norquay

TEACHER Mrs. Tays PUP LS Mary Porter Rose e Cochran Mary an Cochran Eva Walton Annie Bassett Sarah McCutcheon Maggie McCutcheon Cellax McPherson George Cochran.

TEACHER James Hargrave PUPILS Wilson Bassett Moran Cochran Donald McKay Wm Norquay John Norquay

TEACHERS Geo M McCurdy and Mrs Lundy

In 1886 Rev Thos. Davidson conducted a Bible Class consisting of John Clark, Wm Fleming, Donald Mclver, Jas. Harper and J F Lees

People gain fame or glory for many reasons, but I am sure that the most unusual one in the early Sabbath School record concerns a Sunday School student named Ed Sullivan. Ed is listed in the enrolment record for Nov 1887 in Mr. Alex Smith's class. A notation was made opposite Ed's name to red ink to this effect. Methods tried to catch him but did not succeed. Ed's record shows excellent attendance and study of catechism and Bible verses. We read too that Harry Tweed was sick of chicken pox in February 1888.

When families left town it was carefully noted in the attendance record

e g — left for Rat Portage

went down the river on the steamer Northcote,

went west on C.P.R. a carpenter. (A Bible class student)

Since the first Sunday School record book ends in 1894 and there is a 45-year gap till 1939 we regret that so much of this important part of St. John's Christian education is lost to this history. However a few facts have been gleaned from Managers and Session records. We will quickly note these items

June 11 1890 The Sunday School presented a handsome pulpit chair to the Church

Feb. 3, 1895 The Christmas Tree party was mentioned

Oct. 19 1913 Mr. Hay resigned from the office of Superintendent

Mr. Owen accepted the position

Dec 18 1915 Mr. Thomas took the office

Dec. 1916 Mr. Elgin Bell served for 10 years to 1926

Jan 23 1916 The School added 200 volumes to its library

An unusual opportunity was extended by our Sunday School to Chinese boys who had come to live in our city. In the annual Church Report of Jan 19 1916 we first hear of classes being conducted to teach the boys English. The leader of this project was Miss Louise Best, a well known first-grade teacher in Medicine Hat. She was assisted by ten teachers, and it is recorded that these Chinese students did good memory work. They had their own S. School collection had banked $51.90 and were interesting pupils. The branch of the work continued until 1924, when no further mention was made of it.

Excellent attendance at Sunday School was a common practice in those years, possibly because there were few distractions in our city to draw the attention of both adults and children away from their Church. About 1918 Miss Lottie Carle (now Mrs. Helmer) taught a class of boys in our Sunday School, and she presented awards to the pupils of her class for perfect attendance. A winner for the first

year received a gold and enamel pin, suitably designed, for the second year a gold wreath was added to encircle the pin and for the third year a bar was attached beneath the wreath. These three year awards were won by Fred Trotter, R. D. Porter and Fred Millican, the latter being still in possession of the pin.

Mr. Eugene Bell
Supt. 1918-28

Statistics received from Toronto regarding our regular Sunday School show that registration grew to 300 in 1925, but that does not mean that actual attendance reached that peak. To pick up the record of history starting in 1939, we would like to point out that Sunday School teachers did not hold many business meetings. Their work was assigned by the Superintendent and they usually met only to plan the Christmas concert and the summer picnic.

We pay tribute to the Superintendents and Teachers who carried on diligently over a period of many years, some names appearing in the minutes again and again. From 1939 on are included:

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Goldie	Mary McIntosh	Mrs. Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Hallis	Mrs. Jeffrey	Frances Dell
Mrs. Phyllis McPhee	Mary McPherson	Agnes Hopkins
Dorothy Taylor	Miss Isabel Anderson	Marjorie Smith
Cay Perkins	Mrs. Rose	Betty Wight
Pearle le Morrison	Audrey McKie	Mrs. Carl ope
Miss Billie Layton	Mrs. Dowkes	John Locke, R.A.F.
Miss Elsie Layton	Audrey McKenzie	Jean Potts
Mine Bain	Miss Kate McDonald	Mary Elder
Mrs. Lindsay	Mrs. Mc. Smith	Iona Gordon
Mr. Hicks	Hermie Hooke	Jim Cunningham
Mary Hicks	Miss Anne Hawthorne	Hugh Thomas, R.A.F.
Mrs. Murray	L/AC Ron West, R.A.F.	Evan Simmons
Mrs. McArthur	Miss Fairlie	Mrs. L. Simons
Mrs. Jim Poulton	Rev. Simmons	Mrs. Absalom
Miss Doreen Lehmer	Audrey Merchant	Pat Taylor
Zalma Stirling	Miss Flora Poulton	Jean Matthew
Mrs. Florence Foster	Miss W. Foster	Barbara Solomon
Rev. R. L. Taylor	Shirlie May	Mr. A. Seaman
Mrs. Jean Taylor	Mr. Tom Simons	E. Mosher
Miss McGreevy	Mr. J. Brust	A. Schneider
Mrs. Miller	Miss Margue M. Goldie?	Mrs. Lang
Miss Kerslake	Mrs. Gordon Simons	McIntosh
Mr. & Mrs. D. Grant	Miss Ed Sutherland	Mrs. Maggie Cocks
Miss Dorothy Fraser	Miss M. McMillan	Mrs. Heather Dickson
Gordon McArthur	Miss C. Stirling	Mrs. Erlan Goodchild
Mrs. McKee	Mrs. J. Knox	Betty Hanley
Mrs. J. Hurlbert	Miss Frances Robinson	Mrs. Chesley Schmidt

Mr A es Gaste
Mrs H. H nhardsen
Mrs. Gardner
Mrs Pettigrew
Mrs Tufford
Mrs J Ba rie
Mrs. Ken es
Mrs. Raty
Mrs. Verna Forde
L Rian McArthu
Rev J B. M nd
Mr Jack Ba kinlyne
Pat McQueen
M s Margaret Campbell
M s Blake Frushton
Miss Heather Bellamy
Mrs. Bob Mc she l
Mrs. Harry Yuill
Miss C nelly Schaefer

Miss Mary Stan ey
Mrs. Al Wilson
Mrs Batty Mc ar
Miss K. Fourie es
Mrs. E. Lyon
Desmond B ant
Eugene N mith
Marjorie Morrison
Jo Ann S mmons
Batty Fo ds
Frank Hagenmeister
Mrs. Corn Yeat
Mrs Ann Plews
Janet Ha kens
M s D. Bareeh
M s Sheila Jeng
M s Jessie Barr s
Mrs. Bob Mathison
Mr Jim Pratt

Mrs. Claud es Prady
Mrs. Maurice Cinclella
Miss M L. Fa ly
Miss Batty Anne Matthew
Mrs Margaret Mann
Miss Jessie G bson
M & Mrs. N. Toole
Gloria Fauser
Rev J. Alli on
Marjorie Grant
Joan Kenyon
M Tom Hartbarger
Miss Roslyn Ba le
Mrs Pat Fauleon
Rev B D. C. Smith
Mrs Barry Shaw
Mrs. A Ga ian
Miss Susan Dodds
Mrs. Alfred Mc ke 7
Mr Gordon McArthur

In 1941 the average attendance was 104 pupils and the average collection was $4.77. At the Sunday School picnic in 1942 ribbons and nickels (one dollar's worth) were given to the prize winners and suckers (50c worth) were given to second and third prize winners.

In 1944 Cliff Steelman and Yvonne Levesque were awarded twelfth year certificates for perfect attendance and Bob Shiels won his award in 1945, also for perfect Sunday School attendance.

In 1945 there was a shortage of goodies for the children's Christmas treat, this being want me moments suggested we get some Cracker Jack, tangerines and peanuts if they were available. In 1945 the average attendance of pupils was 93, teachers 14 and collection averaged $8.37. Pupil enrolment was 135 and staff 18.

New school room facilities were constructed in 1955. For many years Mr. Maurice Stone donated a jar of nickels and pennies the amounts varying up to and more than $200.00 a really good boost for Sunday School use. In 1959 the average attendance was 125 (enrolment 217) teaching staff and assistants 26. The last summer vacation Bible School was held in this year with an enrolment of 81.

The new once-a-month afternoon Church School program was begun in 1970. The children of grades one to nine are served a simple lunch after the morning service the third Sunday of each month. Then they go to their classes till 4.30 p.m. The attendance has been encouraging and the study material very good. Thanks are extended to the Ladies Aid who finance the food to the workers who prepare and serve the meal and to the teachers who carry on the studies.

Due to the lack of many of the records some names will have been omitted. We offer our sincere thanks to all who carried on the work in the Church School.

A typical picnic in the early days is reported in the Metcalfe Herald News on Tuesday June 7th 1911:

"On Saturday next July 1 the pupils of St. John's Sabbath School will enjoy a picnic on the lot at Riverside. Mr. Hargreve has kindly consented to let the boys and girls have the use of the grounds and the grove which will contribute to the enjoyment of all. All the scholars are asked to assemble at the church not later than half past one when arrangements will be made to get to the picnic grounds. All contributing baskets of eatables are requested to leave them at Mrs. Rankin's — north of the track and those on the south side are asked to send baskets to the church where a rig will convey them to the picnic grounds. As Saturday is a holiday it is hoped that a goodly number of people connected with the church will take the opportunity of being present."

THE CRADLE ROLL

A little-publicized work that has been carried out in the church for many years, is the Cradle Roll, which has always been looked after by one of the ladies. In a few years then handed on to someone else to keep records and send birthday cards to the little newcomers in St. John's families.

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In presenting the history of the Women's Missionary Society it is our hope that we can pay fitting tribute to the ladies of our Congregation who have devoted time, study, worship and faithful stewardship to the mission work of our Church at home and abroad.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has two Women's Missionary Societies, the Eastern Division covering the Maritimes and the Western Division covering the rest of Canada. Prior to 1914 the Western Division also had two societies, one supporting Foreign Missions and the other supporting Home Missions. A Foreign Missionary Society was formed in St. John's in the 1890's with Mrs. J. W. Muir as its first president. There are no records of these early meetings.

The Home Missionary Auxiliary of St. John's was formed in May 1905, the dues being set at twenty-five cents for ladies and one dollar for gentlemen. Their second meeting was held immediately following that of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. No further records are available until June 12, 1909, when the minute book started in May 1905 is now headed "Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society". A complete set of minutes is on file from then until this senior group disbanded in 1970.

In scanning these minutes many interesting points are noted. At a Thankoffering Meeting on November 14, 1910 the group entertained the girls from Knox Presbyterian, the Baptist and the Metho-

dist churches On April 6 1912 Mrs G L Gordon of Redcliff Presbyterian Church gave an account of the mission work being done at Bowell — an area miles away Before the years of radio and TV special meetings were the occasions for musical programs when members and the young daughters played the piano or sang In 1913 the group lost most of its officers and membership dropped from forty-eight to thirty-five when several of these moved to the church on the hill." Westminster Presbyterian

In 1914 the Home and Foreign bodies of the W M S W D were united and the Medicine Hat Presbyterial was formed The ladies worked hard to raise money In 1922 the Presbyterial allocation was $600 00 of which St. John's share was $275 00 Mrs. Wm. Wilkinson the first Presbyterial delegate from our group was appointed to attend General Council in 1915. In 1918 the ladies presented the first Life Membership to Mrs J W Morrow for her long and valued service to the entire Congregation Over the years thirty members of the senior group received Life Membership and they proudly wore the little gold pin with the emblem of our Church the burning bush emblazoned on it Possibly the most interesting presentation was the one given by the Chinese boys in Miss Louise E best a teacher who had conducted English lessons for them in the church

In 1925 Church Union swept away the existing Presbyterials Synodicals and Council Since St John and Wallace Street had retained its property and organization we were one of the strong Congregations in the Province of Alberta The W M S of St. John's was invited to send delegates to General Assembly in Toronto in April 1925 to help in re-organization plans Mrs A. C Hawthorne and Mrs. Nicholson were chosen Mrs Nicholson only attending Three Presbyteries were formed in Alberta St John's becoming part of Calgary Presbyterial in October of that year

In 1931 the W M S groups in the southern part of the province formed the Medicine Hat Presbyterial and St John's members have over the years made up a strong part of that body In 1948 and again in 1956 the question of dissolving Medicine Presbyteria and joining Calgary Presbyterial has been discussed In 1964 a good deal of research was done on the matter. Both years it was decided to retain the status quo. Now again in 1973 the question is under consideration partly because of difficulty in finding officers and partly because of a directive from Council Executive pointing out that Presbyterials should endeavour to conform their boundaries with those of Presbyteries

FORMATION OF THE GUILDS

On November 10 1944 a meeting of the young women of the Church was called at the Manse to organize a new group. Credit for this small beginning is given to Mrs R L. (Jean) Taylor and Mrs Wm.

(Mary) Rutherford. As the membership grew from four to twenty-eight, in 1950 the name Isabel Taylor Guild was adopted in honor of the Minister's sister. Miss Isabel Taylor, a missionary in Formosa. By the end of 1951 the attendance was so large that the membership was split and two more groups were formed, the Hargrave Guild (this name honoring a pioneer family in our Congregation and the Ruby Walker Guild honoring a beloved deaconess in the work of the WMS. Thus St. John's had four groups, the senior ladies changing their name to The Afternoon Study Group in 1954.

THE PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

A matter of intense interest to St. John's and especially to the WMS groups was the opening of the Presbyterian Training School in 1950. In the James Hargrave residence on Riverside in Medicine Hat. Rev. M. S. Blackburn, at that time in Calgary, knowing that the house was available and that Mr. Hargrave had wished it used for some such purpose, was largely responsible for the establishment of the PTS here. The building was purchased by the WMS. WD. for the nominal sum of $10,000.00. The purpose of the school was to train lay workers in leadership in local congregations. The building was adapted to provide dormitory and classroom accommodation for forty students, but it was never filled to capacity due to lack of interest and even resistance on the part of several Alberta Congregations. There were about forty-five graduates of the annual course of study of about six months, also in addition there were well attended summer school sessions and bible study groups.

The Congregation of St. John's participated in the function of the school through financial support from individuals, groups and the Congregation as a whole, through taking part in the summer school and bible study groups and through the services of their Minister Dr. R. L. Taylor, who was a constant lecturer and adviser during the seven years the school was in operation. Miss Dorothy Myers and Miss Margery Merrifield were graduates. Another graduate Miss Winnifred Hollestelle, married part time student Ailith Wilson and both have given faithful service in St. John's over the years. Three of the students, Dan Kemble, Bob Wyler and Larry Jackson went on into the ministry.

The key person of the school during its five years as Superintendent was Dr. John Brent. This quiet unassuming man with his outstanding Christian character made a lifelong impact on all who had the privilege of studying under him.

Largely through the efforts of Miss Marguerite Quickfall, Deaconess and lecturer, a small congregation was established at the school which later grew into Riverside Presbyterian Church. A new church was built on the grounds and in 1965 the old house was demolished and the land sold for residences.

Devoted Members of St. John's.

Mrs. J. E. Nicholson Represented St. John's in Toronto after Church Union.

Mrs. Ernest King President of W.M.S. and of Ladies' Aid.

Mrs. J. W. Hutchin 48-year Member of W.M.S.

Mrs. James Holroyd Mitchell Ardent supporter of the W.M.S.

W.M.S. CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Perhaps the greatest activity and interest among W.M.S. workers all across Canada was achieved in the years 1958 - 1964 when Council set several goals for the one hundredth anniversary of the W.M.S. W.D. Several financial objectives were set and our groups all worked hard at these money raising projects which stimulated interest in the congregation as well as among our own members. The Isabel Taylor Guild sent Mrs. Gordon McArthur as their representative while four others attended the convention held in Montreal in May 1964 at their own expense these being Mrs. G. G. Elder, Mrs. Myrl Smith, Mrs. Clarke Moon and Mrs. Charles Dowkes. The latter was Synodical Historian at that time and so the Medicine Hat ladies were asked to prepare a poster type display of Alberta W.M.S. history to be shown at the meeting in Montreal. A committee consisting of Margaret Main, Terry Hall and Margaret Dowkes worked for months on a suitable display which they took to the anniversary convention. This chart was stored in the vault of St. John's after being shown throughout the province at Presbyterial meetings. At Montreal 1,100

women gathered from across Canada to share in the wonderful programs prepared by the Council Executive. The theme speaker for all three days was Miss Margaret Kennedy one of our missionaries in India.

In 1957 when Miss Kennedy travelled across Canada while on furlough we were greatly honored to have her visit Medicine Hat. Here she spoke at a breakfast for W.M.S. Members C.G.I.T. and Explorers at the morning service and at a luncheon attended by Ehere and Managers and their wives and W.M.S. Executive members. We have also been favored by visits from other missionaries from time to time.

The faithful giving of stewardship money by each member done by envelope system with the amounts known only by the giver and the treasurer has resulted in thousands of dollars being forwarded from St. John's through W.M.S. channels to further the work of our Society both in foreign fields and in Canada. As this history is being compiled local members are preparing to assume the main Synodical offices. These positions have formerly been grouped in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. Now some of our own women will take up these provincial responsibilities for the next two or three years, thus adding greatly to the dedicated service contributed by St. John's W.M.S. members.

We are reluctant to close this report without mentioning the names of a few of the members who gave of their time and talent to maintain the work of the W.M.S. and who are not listed among the past heads. Some of these are Mrs. F. H. Sproule, Mrs. A. T. Cunliffe, Mrs. J. (Queenie) Mitchell, Mrs. H. Sissons, Mrs. Ada Dennon, Miss Margaret Smith and the Misses Jessie and Kate MacDonald, the latter having been honored by the Afternoon Study Group in 1960 when she retired after serving seventeen years as secretary. In December 1945 the senior group held a farewell for Mrs. J. W. Hamilton who had been a member for forty years. Mrs. G. G. Elder and Mrs. D. Bowes sustained the Afternoon Study Group during its last difficult twelve years by their faithful service in the office of President. Many of the ladies have held Presbyterial and Synodical offices over the decades thereby gaining knowledge of W.M.S. work, while contributing to the strength of the senior organizations.

DISBANDING OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP

The changing life patterns with so many fully occupied working wives, did take its toll. On April 21, 1970 at the home of its last President, Mrs. D. Bowes a meeting was conducted by Miss Marjorie Mitchelson then President of Macleod Presbyterial which formally disbanded the Afternoon Study Group which had originated in the 1890's. Some of the presidents who have served with these faithful women over the years are:-

Mrs. Wm. (Jean) Williamson - 1914 - 1917 incl
Mrs. J. A. (Anne) Corbett - 1916, 1919 1926- 1929 incl 1931
Mrs. Thos. (Annie) Wilson - 1920 - 1924 incl Apr 28- Dec 1925
Mrs. Thos. (Annie) McArthur - 1932 - 1934 incl
(From 1915 to 1934 except from Jan. to Apr. 14 1925 all the presidents were named either Anna or Annie)
Mrs. M. S. (Ruth) Stackhouse - 1935 - 1937 incl
Mrs. Ernest (Ethel) King - 1938 - 1942 1945 - 1946
Mrs. C. (Kitty) Stanley - 1943, 1944 - 1947
Mrs. G. G. (Emmeline) Elder - 1948 - 1951 incl 1957 - 1962 incl
Mrs. D. (Minnie) Bowie - 1953 - 1956 incl

At the time of writing this history St. John's has only one W.M.S. group. The Ruby Walker Guild disbanded in 1961 due to lack of members. In January 1971 the Isabel Taylor and Margaret Gurkis joined forces and took the name Margaret Taylor W.M.S. Their total membership was about thirty active and fifty three Associate members. (Associate members do not attend meetings but do contribute financially). Each group was having difficulty getting officers and by amalgamating the total number of local officers was halved. Those some members were freed for positions of Presbyterial and Synodical level. This action has proved to be wise especially as they have met acceptance of heavier Synodical responsibilities.

JUNIOR GROUPS

The W.M.S. groups have always been interested in their junior groups the C.O.C. (Children of the Church - formerly the Mission Band) the Explorers and the C.G.I.T. They have sponsored these groups over the years giving them financial assistance and making them aware of their membership in the great work of missions.

Mission Band 1909 - 1913

There may have been Mission Bands organized in our Church over a period of years but we have a record of only one. In the minute book of a Mission Band that flourished from 1909 to 1913. The children's meetings began on Feb. 28 1909, when they met after school with an attendance of 15 members who paid 10¢ dues. Miss Janet Morrison was the President and Miss Edith Wilson the Secretary-Treasurer. They are later leaders guiding the children in Mission Study. A great deal of their work was also done including dressing dolls, making quilt blocks by the glee, and cutting out pictures for scrap books by the boys. These items were given to Indian Schools sponsored by the W.M.S.

The highlight of this little history was a program one social

evening in 1910, which included recitations solos instrumental duets and choruses. Children mentioned in the minutes were

Grace Wilson	Isabel McKay	Ann's Wilson	James Williamson
May Shields	Earl Bell	May Osborne	Ms Jane Agnew
Dorothy Wilson	Lillian Hamilton	Phil's Hayes	Elsie Gordon
Beth Allen	Irma Craig	Clyde McLaren	Ruby Allen
Lyle Wyatt	Robert Malcolm	Ken's Malcolm	Walter Hayes

The Minutes recorded on a fine winter day that the skating was unusually good on the river so the sewing was postponed." The Band raised $38.00 at the table at the Bazaar in 1910 which is a remarkable amount for a Children's Group.

C.O.C. and Explorers

Mrs. R. L. Taylor
Organizer of Explorers

Two mid-week organizations in St. John's that included the children's activities in eleven years of age were the Children of the Church and the "Explorers". Both of these Groups have identical objectives to draw the children to the church during the week to participate in activities related to worship mission study recreation and service to others.

From 1957 to 1960 Alice Tremblay Anne Knox Doris Richardson and Mary Macahal devoted their talents and time in promoting the C.O.C. Group. Then in 1959 the Explorers were organized with Mrs. R. L. Taylor and Anne Knox as Counsellors with an average attendance of 12 girls. During the years since then the Group has flourished and the children were given guiding in many branches of child development. Leaders assisting Jean Taylor were Winnie Wilson Aileen Sinden Thora Barrie and Gladys Gardiner. The girls worked at arms project almost every week so that by Christmas and Easter they were equipped with an array of gifts to deliver to the Shut-ins of our Congregation. The children couldn't raise much money but contributed approximately $15.00 yearly to Missions. One continuing project has been the collecting of used postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society. The girls operated with the financial help of the Woman's Missionary Society.

When a girl was initiated into Explorers, she was given a red star, bordered by blue and gold stars as she performed required tasks. For attending faithfully for three years, she was given an "E" pin then graduated into C.G.I.T.

In 1967 the Explorer Group held a farewell picnic for Mrs. Taylor Counsellor for eight years. She was presented with a gold maple leaf pin and photo album from the girls.

Gerry Schneider became Counsellor after Mrs Taylor moved away and they continued their activities making novelties for the Bazaar table and fudge and grape jelly for the Shut-ins of the Congregation. Due to the small number of girls available in St. John's in 1970 our Group joined with Rivervale Explorers under the leadership of Zan Ballantyne who Gerry Schneider. The following year Shirley Meyer and Francis Riddell assisted. The combined group had twenty members and continued with the Explorer program.

Joan Taylor Leader Gladys Gardner Thora Earrie
Roberta Morrison Barbara Pratt Joan Gunter Jeanette Kakan
Nat. Taylor Heather Shelvin Betty Chew Hazel Chew

C.G.I.T.

The C.G.I.T. Movement started in Medicine Hat in 1921 under the leadership of Miss Fair who reported of the annual Church meeting that this new group was progressing well. She was referring to a Christian organization for Teen-age girls formed in Eastern Canada about 1915, whose program was based on the Scripture verse "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man" thus giving each girl an opportunity to develop mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. This program literally swept the country and the St. John's Group was well organized by 1921. All early minute books have been lost but the annual meeting reports of the Church for 1927, 1928 and 1929 state that reports of C.G.I.T. were given, their leaders being Joanne Earrie, Miss Hill, Dorothy Dennes and Miss Gillespie.

The uniform of the white middy, navy skirt and tie were adopted very early in the history of this national Society; summer camps were an important part of the program also by 1940 annual Vesper

Services in the Churches were sponsored by the Society. In larger centres a Girls Work Board co-ordinated the programs and advised leaders. Here in St. John's the C.G.I.T. became overshadowed by Brownies, Guides and Rangers, and there was no group for some years. In 1958 our Minister, D. Taylor, got a group organized under the leadership of Eleanor Mehrer with 8 girls attending and this has flourished for 14 years.

In carrying out an activity that is helpful to the Church, our girls have distinguished themselves in their assistance at the Sunday morning Nursery, which is held in the basement of the church. The Thursday Club gave the girls $35.00 which they used to accumulate materials and toys to create a happy atmosphere for the tiny tots. Cribs were also available for babies.

Each year the Women's Missionary Society conducted an affiliation ceremony, impressing on the members that C.G.I.T. girls are part of the W.M.S. This service was sometimes preceded by a Mother-Daughter Banquet.

Money raising projects included participation in a City wide sale of Hallowe'en candy, and making of wreaths for the Bazaar.

In 1963 nine girls attended C.G.I.T. Camp at Camp Kennevan near Sylvan Lake. In 1964 they took part in a Play. The Message Arrangement in the Jehsa Festival sponsored by the W.M.S. When Eleanor Mehrer resigned in 1964 the new leaders were Margaret Moen and Norma Lyon.

Two Rallies of District C.G.I.T. Groups have been held in St. John's — in 1961 when Anne Knox was a member of the Work Board and again in 1964 when the fiftieth Anniversary of the C.G.I.T. was celebrated. Mavis Milne and Winnie Wilson were also helpers with the work at that time.

Norma Lyon, Margaret Moen, Jean Stoneman, Elke Haeo, Susans, Maria Van Wyngarden, Sharon Noble, Donna Purdy, Joan Curtis, Nan Taylor, Jane Moore, Carol Storrs

In 1965 a group of Riverside Church girls joined our members and in 1969 the two amalgamated partly due to difficulty in obtaining leadership. In 1970 the C.G.I.T. put on a play for the Annual Synodical meeting of the W.M.S. which was held in Medicine Hat that year.

GIRL GUIDES BROWNIES AND RANGERS

Guiding began with Robert Baden-Powell of London, England. A Rally was held at the Crystal Palace in 1909 for boys interested in Scouting and some 11 000 attended — and so were the girls! Imagine the reaction when, at the end of an all-male march, there appeared a brave posse of girls dressed in Scout jerseys, neckerchiefs and long skirts! In 1910 Robert Baden-Powell persuaded his sister Agnes to take these young girls under her wing and from that time on Guiding began to develop rapidly, spreading to Canada the following year and groups were organized as early as 1912 in Alberta, the first being in Calgary.

In 1932 a meeting of teen-age girls of St. John's congregation was called to form some kind of organization for them. Out of this meeting came the request to form a company of Girl Guides. All that time few girls had ever seen a real live Girl Guide, this occurred at a function in Calgary. Neither leader nor girls knew anything about Guiding, but from this beginning emerged the three forms of Guiding: Brownie Pack, Girl Guide Company and a Ranger Company, with St. John's Church being the sponsor enabling each group to use the number 1 after the name title identifying the groups as being the first organized in the community. The late Mrs. Mide Gordon through her concern for the youth of St. John's agreed to become the first Captain of the pack she held for ten years, and Miss Alexandra Murray (now Mrs. Jack Ballantyne) the first Lieutenant. The new Movement soon captured the imagination of any young girls and then another interested member of St. John's Miss Caroline Cotner (now Mrs. Fred Flatz), more commonly known as "Lindy" turned her boundless enthusiasm and energies into the Guiding Movement and it was through her efforts that these groups began.

During the years of the 1940's monthly Church parades and Assembly meetings were continued in conjunction with the regular Guide programme. It was a thrilling experience for the Guide to belong to a group where she discovered interesting things about the world in which she lived, where she learned to use her hands, her eyes and her mind and at the same time have fun, she recreation with others of the same age. Guiding taught them about nature, how to hike, to camp, to cook, to be a homemaker, first-aid and of course how to play. Over the years many girls took numerous tests to maintain, worked hard for the various Badges, All Round Cord, and the Gold Cord, the highest award in Guides (last year this award was discontinued and a new replaced by the Canada Cord). The records show that only 2 girls received this award from St. John's, the first being presented to Mary Mitchell (the late Mrs. Jim Barr) on March 18, 1940. The achievement held special significance for St. John's Company as it was the first Gold Cord earned by a Guide in Medicine Hat. Working towards this goal began the day a Guide was enrolled and her 16th birthday when all tests

had to be completed. Due to the difficulties of the times many girls were unable to complete the requirements needed for this coveted award, and as it is fitting that we recognize Mary's love and devotion to Guiding which remained throughout her life, in late years she was actively involved in the Local Association and was District Badge Secretary for many years. It was with great sorrow that we bade her a final farewell on August 17 1972. The second Gold Cord was received by Miss Ilas Fountaine in 1955 a former member of St. John's. Miss Fauntaine now resides in Calgary and is interesting to note that both Gold Cord Guides chose nursing as their career.

In the war years the girls turned their thoughts and energies into knitting for the Red Cross and helping in many ways with the various war time projects. In the mid-forties, Mrs. Marjorie Matthew became Captain and the work of the Guides continued to grow. Membership in the Company during the 30's and 40's is recorded between 30 and 47 girls, and in some years there was a waiting list of girls eager to join.

Guides flourished in the 1950's with membership maintaining a high level. The Chief World Guide, Lady Baden-Powell visited Medicine Hat in 1952 and again in 1955. In an unofficial stop-over visit, she inspired and encouraged Guide and Guide alike in her informal talk given at St. Barnabas Church where all the uniformed young ladies of the city gathered. In 1958 after many years of faithful service Mrs. Matthew turned the Company over to Miss Barbara Burns (now Mrs. Bill Morrison) and was assisted by Mrs. Janet Rayment who became Captain the following year.

1960 was Jubilee Year when the Guides observed the 50th Anniversary of Guiding in Canada and the members of the Guiding Movement celebrated this event by planting a highway of golden tulips across Canada. This ribbon of tulips was a fang like and beautiful token of appreciation from all in Guiding as well as an effective way of catching the eye of the public. The groups in Medicine Hat planted over 500 tulips in a giant Trefoil next to the Trans-Canada Highway in the south west section of the city and also a border of flowers was planted in the park next to the C.P.R. Depot. In July a Jubilee Birthday Party was held and over 1000 attended. Also in 1960 Elaine Lefever (now Mrs. Don Tesky) a former Guide took over the Company until she moved to Lethbridge in the summer of 1963. It is sad to record that during the period 1963 to 1965 we were unable to find a regular leader to assume the leadership and the Guides gradually weakened. It was with great pride that we welcomed Mrs. Barbara Mennenn in the fall of 1965 as Captain. She accepted this position to prevent the group from disbanding. Becoming both Captain of St. John's Company and District Commissioner. However in 1965 due to many unfortunate circumstances the Company was forced to close. In September of 1966 Mrs. Tawse on her return to Medicine Hat, once

mere assumed leadership and St. John's No. 1 Company was re-organized and under her capable supervision grew from a group of 10 girls to a full company of 30. She held this position until 1971 when Mrs. Kathy Hill became Captain and holds the post on today.

It is unfortunate that the names of the Charter Members of the first organized Company in Medicine Hat were not preserved but we list those which are remembered today.

Isabel Murray	Isobel Millen	Marguerite Mathers
Nancy Hargraves	Elaine Connor	Frances Gust
Marion Matthews	Kathleen Connor	

The Lieutenants who worked with the Guides over the years are

Alexandra Murray	Dixie Layton	Elaine Stevens
Catherine Connor	Babara Burns	Lorraine Hook
Marion Matthews	Elaine Latimer	Mary Thompson
Jean Perrin	Bessie Barnes	

Some of the former members of the Guide Movement have grown up in our congregation and are still with us. We list a few names that come to mind.

Eileen Connor Lloyd	Jean Philp Sloane	Joan McClellan Helgesen
Kathleen Connor Pratt	Margaret McLeod Bake	Gloria Anne Fair Hamlet
Dorothy Mitchell Scott	Joyce Blaisdell McKeown	Margaret Mogridge Geeks
Edna Taylor Hoodenow	Betty Poppleton Mole	

If only we had space to list the hundreds of girls who took part in the Movement in St. John's since 1933, but on reviewing the years we find that many members of St. John's gave willingly of their time and talents to the service of Guiding over the past forty-one years. Therefore we recognize the Commissioners of the Medicine Hat District who were members of St. John's: Mrs. Tom Murray (3rd) Mrs. Don Hawthorns (4th) and Mrs. Phyllis (J. D.) Morrison (5th). It was during their terms of office from 1939 until 1959 that guiding grew from a pioneer Movement to a well organized unit. There have been many changes in Guiding over the past years but the spirit and enthusiasm is the same. Years hence some girl will be looking back and laughing at the uniforms worn and the format of meetings.

In the early years Guides as part of their experience held camps at Elkwater Lake and were joint affairs with St. Barnabas and St. Patrick Companies. It is recorded that 14 Guides from St. John's attended camp in 1938. The following year it was decided to operate the camps independently and each Company be responsible for organizing their own group. Caroline Connor having perfected the trial and error method became the First Camp Commandant and with her unbounted courage took the Company camping from August 8th to 14th with the help of Miss Sarah Cowker.

The camps were held in what is now the Manalta Trailer Park but due to the traffic and the curious onlookers, the open area where they pitched their tents proved unsuitable especially on Saturday

evenings when the young cowboys of the district descended upon the camp. It was soon decided to re-locate to a more secluded area. But where! Mrs. Tom Murray, second Division Commissioner, (the wife of Mrs. E. M. Cawker) strongly felt the need to isolate the camp and so one day she bravely set out on foot in search of a location exploring many areas in the region. Quite by accident she wandered across the creek beyond the old camp and after much struggling through the densely wooded area came upon a beautiful valley — and immediately cried out as the new camp-site which it still used today. Camping was different in the 1930's and 1940's. During this period it was known as Pioneer Camp due mainly to the fact that little information about camps was available and a leader had to rely on her own resources for a successful camp. Pioneer Camp was simply one where everything was out in the open except for sleeping in beds and slinging the tarp over the eating tables — cooking over the open fires when the rain poured down. This same fire sometimes a trench fire and sometimes an altar fire did however manage to provide heat for cooking the odd pig and the stew for some 20 to 30 Guides. It was during Mrs. Don Hawthorne's term as Commissioner that she realized the need for improvement in the camping facilities and was instrumental in raising enough funds to erect a building for cooking and dining purposes. Also during the rainy days camp-fire could be held indoors and even the the crackling of burning logs was absent the girls enjoyed the same comradeship. From this early beginning and as the leaders gradually gained confidence camping developed into a full week of organized out door activities. Over the years Sir John's Garden have spent happy and profitable days camping at Elkwater and today they still pitch their tents and dine in the Cook House.

BROWNIES

Brownies now get into the act! Not to be outdone fellow sisters of Guides began to appear at their elder sisters meetings in England about 1914 neatly clad in thrifty muslin pinafores and often escorted by their nannies and so began the younger and separate section of Guiding. This group was called Rosebuds but as no one liked the name Richard Baden-Powell renamed them Brownies.

And so it was on January 18, 1914 (and registered Dec. 31, 1914) the first Brownie Pack began meeting in Medicine Hat with Carnie Conner as the first Brown Owl and Miss Ione Gordon (now Mrs. Paul Green) the first Tawny Owl. Like the newly-formed Guide Company the Brownie Pack and its leaders struggled to learn how to be a Brownie! Now you must know and understand. Our first Brownie to quote Kipling "did all that very week and day and hour and minute no one had ever seen a Brownie in Medicine Hat or knew anything about them. But these young sisters as these in England wanted the same experience as their elder sisters did so once again Line under

task to pioneer this unknown but exciting programme of Brownie lore. And what a challenging experience it must have been as retold by her: "But ignorance is bliss and we plunged enthusiastically into the project and the whole endeavour prospered. We even had the nerve to take thirty Brownies by train to Calgary for a huge Scout Guide Jamboree. Granted they were all attached to a couple of adults and not one was lost, but what a depth it makes you shudder to remember the long jolting, cinders train rids of those days. The hazards to the Jamboree, the feeding, the bathroom visits and the long ride home. But we did see Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the Chief World Scout and Guide. Undertaking such events must surely have inspired others since this Pack has never looked back in its 30 year history in St. John's.

As the years passed the emphasis of Brownies shifted to providing opportunities for young girls to have fun and adventure and also to prepare themselves to lead useful lives, thus establishing the foundations of Guiding in the Brownie Pack. When a Brownie earned her Wings she was ready to graduate into Guides to continue her association.

Many of the activities — Rallies, Jamborees, Parades, V.I.P. visits and other events, were shared with the senior group and also the Cubs and Scouts. There was equal participation in fund raising projects such as the selling of Girl Guide Cookies and Cookie Day held in the Spring of each year. First mention of this project was recorded in the annual reports in 1938.

Brownies have remained fairly consistent over the years with an average yearly membership of about 23. St. John's has been fortunate in providing leadership and the following are the Brown Owls who have served in the capacity:

1934 - 1944 Miss Caroline Conner
(A second Pack was formed with Mrs. Stewart Packburn as leader)
1944 - 1951 Mrs. Jeanne Simmons
1952 - 1958 and 1963 - 1970 Miss Eleanor Mehrer
1959 - 1961 Mrs. Alice Tomblin
1962 - 1963 Mrs. Lorna Shaw
1970 Mrs. Shirley Patton

Tawny Owls 1934 - 1973

Miss Ione Gordon	Miss Jennie Matthew	Mrs. Cora Fisher
Miss Frances May	Mrs. Alice Tomblin	Mrs. Terry Marshall
Mrs. Phyllis Jeeks	Miss Margaret Mogridge	Mrs. Shirley Patton
Miss Shirley MacDonald	Mrs. Isabel Berrie	Mrs. Jeanette Heinz
Miss Rae Feuerstein	Mrs. Shirley Nelson	

RANGERS

As the Guides advanced in years a Ranger Company was formed early 1934 With the introduction Ranger activities especially at this senior age level the Company was active during the 30's 40's and early 1950's but in the later years it closed and opened again Despite several attempts at reorganizing the group the last Company disbanded in June of 1971 Few records are available but the following women served as Captain

Mrs Mertt Gordon Mrs. Marjorie Matthew Mrs Phyllis Purwell
Miss Carolyn Connor Mrs M Lawrence Mrs May Jesse

Lyne Connor Flag Officer in Brownies Guides and Rangers.

Captain Mrs Mertis Gordon Leading Church Parade

Marjorie Hillenbrand

Jerry Hutchins

Mary Mitchell First Guard Corner in Montrose Hall

Lorna Murray

ST. JOHN'S SCOUT TROOP 1911 - 1973
Over 60 Years of Scouting

St. John's Scout Troop had its beginning as a Boys Club sponsored by St. John's Church in the year 1910. Its founder was the late J. Jessop Nott, a long time member of the Board of Session of St. John's Church.

In the year 1910 the governing bodies of most churches had not yet developed awareness of the need for any church program apart from Sunday School training to help guide the youth of their congregations along the right way of life. Week-day groups, where they did exist were primarily religious in character.

Mr. Nott followed the Undertaking Business as the first meetings of the new club were held in part of his establishment. Through the generosity of the late Mr. H. C. Yuill the new club was immediately provided with larger quarters at the rear of his residence then opposite St. John's Church. The new club house was completely furnished by Mr. Yuill for the use of the Boy's Club.

The formation of this Boy's Club was the first step in the process of making application for the establishing of a Boy Scout Group in St. John's. The Boy Scout Movement at that time was growing at an astonishing rate. In the three years since its founding in 1907 by Baden-Powell it had spread through the British Isles and to many countries of the Empire including Canada.

Early in the year 1911 official recognition was given to the members of St. John's Boys Club as a Troop of Boy Scouts authorizing them to wear the uniform, badges and engage in the Boy Scouts Association. A Royal Warrant of Appointment was presented to Mr. Nott appointing him as a Scoutmaster in the Boy Scout Movement.

Mr. Nott was deluged with applications from boys of other denominations to join St. John's Scout Troop. Sixty-one became the charter members of St. John's Scout Troop. Clive Becker, Norman Bassler, John Yuill, Harlan Yuill, Frank McLean, Edward Percy Gervais Anderson, Sydney Holman Bassler, Alex Agnew, Lance Bassler, Harold Ferguson, James Shirra, James Cairns, Raymond Limbert, Donald Limbert, George Crockford, Harry Mathews, Wm. Munn, David McInnes, Wm. Cockerill, Wes Becker, Graham Becker, Frank Cassal, Darcy Smith, Smyth Fleming, Walter Brotherton, Jay Watson, Ralph Smyth, Alvin Smeaton, Wilfred McKay, Earl Bell, Relph Foster, Horace Whitlow, Archie Hawthorne, Maynard Patterson, Norman Evans, Wm. White, Mr. Mahood, George Gardner, Edgar Cooper, Earl Cooper, John McCargar, Albert Cameron, Joshua Shields, Jas. Galloway, Keith Munn, Willard Yuill, Jas. Robinson, Harry Nixon, Jas. Williamson, Donald Rankin, Ingles Boyd, Harry Freeman, Bruce Munro, Stuart McRae, Gerald Rankin, Gus Whitden, Edward Morris, Eric Lyall, Earle Matthews.

To assist Mr. Nott Mr. Frank W. Baird was appointed as Assistant Scoutmaster. This year 1911 marked the coronation of King George V who was crowned at Westminster on June 22, 1911. Six scouts from St. John's were in the Canadian contingent which travelled to England for the Jamboree. The six scouts were: Clare Becker, Harlen Yuill, Horace Whitten, John Yuill, Ivan Possitt and Ralph Smyth. Mr. Nott had the honour of being appointed as Medicine Hat's first District Commissioner on the formation of the District.

On July 1st, 1912 in the Dominion Day parade St. John's had a float which was a submarine complete with a full arsenal of guns and crew. On the occasion, October 11, 1912 of the visit of the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada, St. John's formed part of the color party in attendance for the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the re-named school in his name (originally the Sissons Avenue School). Part of the ceremony was a flag break and Scout J. H. (Hop) Yuill had the honour. Apparently the halyard was too short and as a result on breaking out the flag unfurled we'll be now the top of the flagstaff! The Duke who spotted Hop, told you always fly the flag at half mast in Medicine Hat. Late the troop under Frank Crisel escorted the Duke's party from his carriage to the waiting train.

The outbreak of the First Great War in 1914 caused scouting to come to a standstill. In October 1917 in Medicine Hat. Many of the charter members of the troop served in that war, who came were among those who did not return.

About 1925 Roland Hill was Scoutmaster in the re-organized troop. Jim Castle became Scoutmaster of the Holy Trinity Troop and after a sponsor disagreement the troop merged with St. John's which was without a Scoutmaster at the time. In 1929 six scouts from Medicine Hat including Stan Mann and Johnny Whitney went as part of the Canadian contingent of 185 to the World Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead, England.

In the spring of 1930 Dr. Dan MacCharles put up the Ambulance Trophy for inter troop competition. St. John's won the most years in total finally in 1941, and this was the year three of the team held under dead man's. An Associ ation camp was held during the summer 1930 under H. Morris. November 26th a District Jamboree was held on the occasion of the visit of the new Provincial Field Commissioner W. S. Beckman. In 1931 the troop took part in the Association Camp at Elkwater, July 5, 15 and St. John's with two patrols under Fred Poulsen and Wally Backhem with Jim Castle as Scoutmaster. The camp is perhaps best known now for the published official record at the camp called "The Wet Blanket" (because it stayed out very wet). The record should include (according to Ed McKenzie of the Beaver Patrol) that the supplier of beef limited and the camp got mutton instead — every day in every form — and the boys called it sick-a-mutton camp below

sick-a-soup (mutton st course) hd n 1931 there w e a big district corn feed n Septmber at Fr ce Point (and many pots got burned) and with all the other troops, St John s paraded to the Cenotaph to the Remembrence Service Novembe 11th an annual event in these days.

Another big District Camp was held at Elkwater n July 1932 with Tom Allen as Camp Scoutmaster for St John s Johnny Ba l was given high praise for h s contributions to the daily Camp bu letin — the Wet Blanket Jack Jackson of St John s was similarly recognized as an entertainer. These years evening monthly church parades were held w th the Jackson brothers Jack and Colin n the choir and the scouts ushering and taking the collection. In 1933 34 and 35 individual troop camps were held n Elkwater at the base al and on the West side of Ferguson Hill alongside Beaver Creek. An interesting camp with Tom Allen Scoutmaster was July 1934 with two Indian Tribe patrols — Gordon S asons Beaver Patrol and Doug M deflen's Wolf Patrol. Al of those attending camp were given unique patrol names such as ing Beaver John Dixon Busy Beaver Cherlie Dixon Running Wolf Bud Cooper 1934 was also the year of the Cypress Hills big forest f re August 7 12. At one t me over 600 were on the scene to contain it Barney Crocket of the RCMP commented the fight. Scouts including John Hargrave and Bruce Gual at St. John s, no doubt others were there.

Scou mast r Jim Cant n — Troop No. 1 Wolves of the Cypres Tr bey — St John Ambulance Ch n Jackson Claud Dith Jim St ashan Leslie De ll, Jack Jackson Jimmy McLeod

Mr Jessee Nott

Founder of St. John's Scout Troop No. 1
District Commissioner for many years.

The high ghts of 1935 were the receipt of the King's Jubilee medals by both Jessop Nott and Jim Castle of St. John's, followed by the recognitions of the 25th silver jubilee of King George and Queen Mary with the firing of a 21 rocket salute and a bonfire beacon at the top of Crescent Heights supervised by Jim Castle of St. John's, assistant district commissioner and by a team of scouts using hi chein (not matches) supervised by the Rovers including St. John's. This beacon was part of the chain of similar beacons across the Empire.

As a further event in the Jubilee record one the Scouts of St. John's part cipated in the civic tree planting that borders Gershaw Drive.

1935 was also the occasion of the big train excursion to Calgary in April for the Jamboree and visit of the Chief Scout Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell. Over 500 Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies went from Medicine Hat. Many more joined the train at each stop. It was a massive rally at Victoria Park grounds. A few of the anecdotes: the march to the train started off from St. Johns the St. John's Scouts "smelled" up an making their car private with no trespassing, the mud and rain in the evening - more than 5 400 took part in the Jamboree - and the all night return trip home with no sleep. The year 1935 also saw the departure of Jim Castle from the City Johnny Woznow then took over briefly followed by the new Scoutmaster Johnny Bell and Assistant Jack Jackson. Recognition of Rev. M. S. Blackburn with the troop Chaplain's Badge presentation took place at the annual St. John's parents night.

The years 1936, 37 and '38 were highlighted by St. John's participating in the dedication of Rotary Park on the occasion of the coronation of George VI on May 12, 1937. 1937 at Easter the Scouts (and Cubs) formed part of the nearly one hundred contingent to brave the mud in Havre for the Scout Circus. In turn on the

occasion of the visit of the King and Queen a Jamboree was held in the Medicine Hat Arena May 26th and St. John's participated in the pageant depicting the history of Medicine Hat.

In May 1938 for the big Jamboree a large contingent was expected from Havre but rain and mud turned all back and only six guides arrived to make it an International event. St. John's put on a gymnastic display and J. Jessup Nott was presented with a silver tray in recognition of his many years of service on behalf of scouting. The year 1939 also saw a large contingent of St. John's scouts off to the Provincial Scout Camp at Sylvan Lake to Camp Woods named after Provincial Commissioner J. H. Woods under camp director assistant provincial executive secretary Ralph Johnson. At the close of 1938 J. J. Nott finally stepped down as District Commissioner after very many years of service and early in 1939 was honored with the "Award of Merit".

The close of the 30's and end of the depression years saw the end of the Scout Toy Shop which had operated from various available locations and finally kitty-corner from St. John's each fall repairing old toys given by the community for distribution to needy children. In July 1940 a big District Scout Camp was held at Elkwater. The St. John's contingent and the Charlie Smith identified as the Cree Trio were led by Murray Robinson, assisted by Jack Sissons, who also acted as camp scribe publishing the daily camp newspaper "Smoke Signals".

The war years were years of rapid turnover of leaders as each one left on wartime service. After Johnny Bell had left in 1935 there followed Claud Diehl, Les Ellis, Red Mansfield (of the RAF stationed at No. 34 SFTS Medicine Hat) and then Dave Scudder. Through these war years many of the senior scouts assisted: Charlie Dixon, Ernie Middleton, Tom and Jack Sissons, Bill Graham, Minor Murray. One camp of note was the Provincial Camp at Camp Woods, Sylvan Lake in 1941 in which St. John's scouts took part. Tom and Jack Sissons going as assistant camp leaders. An important visit, September 1945, after the end of the hostilities was the off-the-cuff Jamboree visit of Lord Rowallan, chief scout of the British Empire and Commonwealth at which St. John's troop put on a display of a model campsite.

By 1947 the Schools and Cubs of Canada had contributed over $60,000 to the B-P Chums Up Fund to provide replacement textbooks and libraries to Scouting in the European countries ravaged by the war. Through these postwar years and the 50's the Scoutmasters of St. John's either Dave Scudder, include the names of Harry Deferes, Len Ankers, Dave Starling, and particularly Sam Galdie who served first after 1947 where he had started the Moose Troop, then again 1956-58. Dave Scudder, then served for a year again and then Gerry Hanley

In 1961 Sam Goldie resigned as Scoutmaster. In 1961 and continued right up to 1969. In the years 1946 - 47 - 48 District Camps were once again operated at Elkwater and in 1949 in July a Canadian Jamboree - "Jay - 49" was held at Ottawa at Connaught Park. A representative from St. John's with Archie Campbell. At the Jamboree Medicine Hat participated in an Alberta Wild West Show which was a high light. The train consisted of old colonist sleepers. These were the years also that the Scouts had a Wood Stockade campsite in the river tree-belt of Hoadley's Grove. Many camps and outings and Bronze-Silver Arrowhead courses were held here.

In 1950 at the July District Camp at Elkwater 12 year old Allan Robinson wandered out of camp and got lost. A big search was organized complete with aerial assistance by pilot Jim Murray (earlier a St. John's scout). Fortunately Allan was found unharmed in everyone's relief. In April 1952 Lady Baden Powell visited Medicine Hat with a large District Rally at the Armouries to welcome her. A special reception was held for her in St. John's church. In summer 1955 the World Scout Jamboree was held at Niagara Falls Ontario. St. John's was represented by Donna McAffer.

During the mid and late fifties the emphasis was on camping and the move to the new District Camp Site the main building erected in 1956-57 followed by the progress re construction of the Adirondak shelters built by scouts, leaders and parents. During these years there were annual exchange visits with Hinsa Montana Kin Coulee scout rallies and barbecues, annual church rallies, swimming programs at Rainbow Pool, fire range competitions, paper drives, numerous camping exercises and of course the annual father-son banquets. In February 1961 on the occasion of a Regional Meeting at Lethbridge Sam Goldie was presented with a well deserved Medal

Mr. Sam Goldie Awarded a Medal 1961
Outmaster Scoutmaster Venture Advisor

of Merit. In the summer of 1963 Sam and seven Scouts journeyed to the Provincial Scout Jamboree at Camp Wendy Sylvan Lake

In 1965, as part of the Centennial celebrations an exchange of Scouts was arranged with Moncton and Sam Goldie outed as Scout Master of the Medicine Hat contingent well made the journey Bill Cocks will long remember his campsite on a ridge at Moncton and the storm that blew down his tent In 1967 In return the Moncton scouts camped at Elkwater in the District Camp and received a similar warm and unforgettable welcome they enjoyed at Moncton In addition in 1966 Medicine Hat Scouts journeyed to the opening of the new Camp Impress the Region campsite at Sauvel Lake on the edge of the mountains west of Pincher Creek In rain mud and raw bush the Scouts including Graham and Malcolm Sissons, Bill Cocks and Duncan Strachan of St. John s set up their tent camp

The year 1969 was the last for Queen Scout Ceremonies as they disappeared in the new program for Scouting Most years St John s Scouts were to be found in the Region Ceremony for the award occasion and 1969 was an exception for the last one with Scouts Ed Cooke and David Sissons The years 1968 69 were the start of the changeover to the new scout program with the organization of a Venturer Group sponsored by the District, as a start in the new age group 14-17 years. Ed Doull became Troop Scanner with Sam Goldie as counsellor at St. John s at this time using in the new programme In the fall of 1972 In his wing departure from the City of Trees Scouter Ed Dodd the present leader Jack Sissons assisted by Murray McLeod carried on in the new program presently assisted by Scouters-in training David Sissons and Ed Cocks four patrols 26 boys

St. John s Cub Pack 1931 73

St John s Cub Pack was formed in the year 1931 with Joe Bell as its first Cubmaster A number of individuals have served the Pack in the capacity of Cubmaster over the years including Art Beckham Tom Allen Sam Goldie Ray Wall Cliff Wright, Dave Drever and E. R Pattison The present Cubmaster is Herb Dand Over the years the cubs have performed and participated in many of the same rallies jamborees church parades fund drives, along with St. John's scouts They have had the regular day and summer camps and other activities associated with cubbing

St. John s Venturers 1969 73

In 1969 with the start of the new scout-age grouping program the District sponsored a Venturer group under Clayton Stubbs and at number of the ranks St. John's Scouts joined In November 1969 a new Venturer group was formed with St. John s as sponsor Sam Goldie as Venturer Leader Senior Scouts including Duncan Strachan

David Sissons, Tom Fullen, Ed Cocks, David Meyer, Marvin Hagens, Garth Mulcheon of St. John's troop along with Andrew Congdon, George Bell, completed the founding group. The present Venturer Advisor is Allan Sinx. The group rehears Scouter in Training assistance to St. John's and other troops and packs and participates in other advanced scouting activity.

St. John's Rover Crew 1931 - 1948

The crew was formed in 1931 and registered in January 1932 sponsored by St. John's. The skipper was A. C. Wade. The crew originally met at St. John's but later set up the Raven Den at various other locations and at the residence of A. C. Wade. The crew was active until the war years. The list of rovers is a long one and represents a large number of the senior Scouters in the city during these years. There was the senior responsibility in scouting and their contribution in these years was very significant to the scouting movement.

Sponsor's Role

In all the years of their existence the troop and pack, Rovers and Venturers of St. John's have been self supporting and the only cost to the Church for their operation has been in providing a place for them to meet. This is due to the Group Committee of men and women, mostly parents of the boys, who supported them helping the leaders by the raising of funds, obtaining new leaders when necessary, providing transportation and aid for outdoor activities and in the general management of the affairs apart from the actual training of the boys which is the job of the leaders.

Many men and women have given service to the Group Committee of St. John's over the years and without their self sacrifice and faithful service the scouting could not have continued to function. The Group Committee raises the funds for the purchase of training and camping equipment etc. for the supplies needed and expenses incurred in the operations. The Group Committee meets regularly and when required for special functions. Much of the credit for the successful operation is due to its work.

A HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S P.S.A. CLUB

Late in the month of January 1938, Reverend W. D. Grant Hollingworth called together one Sunday morning some six or seven young people from St. John's Church and described in detail his plans for the inception of a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Club. Mr. Hollingworth explained that such clubs were not an uncommon thing in Canada that they met at five o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday that members brought lunch so the meetings could continue past the supper hour and membership was restricted to young people of 18 years of age and older.

Thus began the first P.S.A. meeting and so was inaugurated one of the finest young people's clubs in the city. From this modest beginning a series of meetings were held which laid the foundation for an organization which grew and flourished in our church and community for almost a decade.

The appointment of committees in the areas of Devotions, Education, Discussions and Dramatics provided an avenue of service for every member of the club and included everyone in the activities. In addition to the former programs the members engaged in a regular and varied program of club functions ranging from costume parties, to picnics, weiner roasts, carol services and a variety of athletic and sport activities. One special activity which proved very popular was the reconstruction of the Tennis Court which existed on the property presently occupied by the Church Hall. This venture started as a natural outlet for the energies of those club members who were interested in tennis. From a regular evening and Saturday afternoon activity the popularity of the courts grew and finally the club secretary was instructed to inquire of the Church Session as to permission to play tennis on Sunday afternoon. Needless to say there was no Sunday tennis.

Among the highlights of the first few years of the club's operation were the International visits with the young people from the Western Inter Church in Great Falls, Montana. The first of these in 1940 was the direct result of a visit from one of our own church young people, Mr. Gordon McArthur (still active in church affairs) as youth ambassador from Medicine Hat to Great Falls. An invitation was extended from the Great Falls Young People for any group from our city to undertake a good-will visit to their community. Our P.S.A. Club accepted the offer, and in May 1940 six cars of our young people made the trip to Great Falls.

The visitation commenced on Friday evening and culminated on Sunday afternoon when the Medicine Hat group had to leave for home. The official program included visits to special areas of Great Falls social gatherings with the American Young People as well as Sunday Church activities. There was, however a hidden agenda. Since

Great Falls had a reputation even in those days of being the "Sin Capital" of the State of Montana. A few of the Canadian visitors decided to pay a clandestine visit to some of the night clubs to obtain first hand information as to the accuracy of the rumors which had entered into Alberta. Needless to say the physical condition of those who part cipated in the extra-curricular entity became evident to the rest of the group on the following day. Instead of being censured by the Great Falls group who might reasonably have assumed that this was hardly in keeping with an international relation by a church group, they decided to set up another such tour the following night to be sure that the Canadians did not miss any of the night life of the Electric City. Needless to say the Rev. Mr. Hollingworth, as chaperone was unaware of this side trip which took place by some of the group.

The International Visit was so successful and popular that a return visit was made by the Great Falls group the following year. Although plans were made to continue these events, the war intervened, and regretfully the trips had to be cancelled.

It is difficult to say just how many members the F.S.A. club had for there was continual shift in population. The first minute book indicates that forty-three members attended the second meeting of the club on February 3 1938.

The first executive elected by the club consisted of the following members:

President	Edwina McKenzie		
Vice President	Frances Pepperell		
Treasurer	Anne Calder		
Secretary	Myrtle Fleming	Convenors	Gertrude Bell
Executive	Mary Monteith		Arthur Jacks
	Tom Moore		Isabel Anderson
	Gordon Ingle		Jim Murray

The members' roll as follows indicates those who were available in F.S.A. on the first one hundred. Asterisks beside names indicate members of No. 34 Service Flying Training School.

Mary Austin	Mabel Conner	Jack Armstrong	Frank Lilly
Betty Wright	Mary White	Jean Stollmeyer	Edwin McKenzie
Evan Taylor	Eileen Bradley	Rev. W. Butcher	Edna Jacobsen
Frances May	Arthur Raines	Frances White	Hugh Thomson
Frank Dudley	Karl Patterson*	Flora Scudder	Doreen Lalever
Helene Layton	Laura Pollwell	Myrtle Fleming	Vernie Burbidge
Audrey Pilley	Ina Spence	Mr. Ingle	Jamelia Merriam
Allie A. Hawthorne	David Mathews	John Barr	Mrs. Taylor
Alan Rankine	Kelly Burbidge	Martha Kelver	John Harris
Carol Olson	Elenora Taylor	Dorothy Mitchell	Willie Layton
Hazel Washburn	Rev. R. L. Taylor	Gordon Ingle	Betty Watkin
Lillian Templeton	Audrey McKenzie	Mary King	Marjorie Smith
Dorothy Jones	Ray Newman	Anne Calder	John Rabasalik
Helen McPhail	Clay Parris	Bessie Harkins	Mrs. Butcher
Helen Spencer	Gordon McArthur	Alex Dunbar	Mary Monteith

Zanie Ma ay	sabe Anderson	Cyril Fidler	Arthur Champeaux
Bon West	Frances Popplewell	Fred Hodgson	Mgaret Donnelly
Betty Pemberwell	Louie Edwards	John Lepley	Vie et Mantz
Lo n Gilks	Gnd a Lang	Dorothy Liddle	Mabel McKenzie
Hamlet Luyten	Bernard May	Dorothy Luke	

During the War Years the F.S.A. club became a haven fo many of the service men from England who were ta ning at No. 34 E.F.T.S. To these young men fu from home and friends the club offered the warmth and fellowship of a home away from home. They e ture brought to the club vita ity of fe ve and su aston shieg variety of talents which were soon put to good use. It e highly likely that the F.S.A. club would not have lasted as long as it did, unless it have sustained its interest among the members held it not check for the steady infusion of new members from the Station. The rate at was fell from one-s ded however for many of the girls of the club found their future husbands during the Sunday afternoon meetings.

As the war cont ued and the ir ases from the station pr gressed to activ serv ce overseas, their interest in the club continued and a lively and cost eed co resp ndence was ma ntained between them and the Overseas Correspondent of the club who for many years was Elsie Luyten (now Mrs. Denis Jeakins).

In 1944 one of the major innovations of the club was the intro- duction of a club paper called The Torch which was issued quarterly and became a most popu ar publ cation, particularly among the absen tee members.

Although Reverend Grant Hollingworth was the inaugural sp ut behind the club and certainly its found ng father, he relinquished the chairmanship. His place was taken by Reverend Wilfred Butcher until he too was called into the services and then Reverend R. L. Taylor guided the club through the years from 1943 to its final meetings in the late forties.

In common with many simi ar organizations, the F.S.A. Club did not end its activities on any specific day rather it continued and declining membership made it evident that it no longer possessed its original appeal. As was noted earlier, one of the strengths of the organization during the war years was the continual infusion of members from the Air Force stationed and when the war years concluded the club did not offer the same appeal for a new generation.

The words to follow were written by Fred Hodgson one of the staunch members of the club who had just been recalled to England. They provided a fitting epitaph for our e gan zat on which meant so much to so many young people from our church our community and from England across the water.

We are grateful to be numbered among you To as all membership e done which we only realize after we have. I am sure that

n after years of peace we will recall with something of s sigh the many pleasant hours spent in your company — outings, excursions, p nics — and that sigh even then will I know hold and breathe to you thankfulness for accepting us into your c mb that we were able in good company to pass some of our le sure hours in the various phases of the C ub s activ t es and though we feel temp rarily friends and fam ar places m coming here what luck we have had to find such a large group of fr ends as yourse ves, and how we will always think that some of the best hours of our four of duty in Canada were P esent Sunday Afternoons. I would like to say with you the few words that meant most of all in all our meetings — the words — God Be With You Till We Meet Again

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE NORTHSIDE CIRCLE

Mrs. Nicholson
Mrs. J m McCombe
Mrs. Wh te
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M s McFadden
M s. Hitchcock
Mrs. Nixon e Scott
Mrs. A. Fra ser
Mrs. E aser
Mrs. McDougall
M s. Sir (Isabe) McComas
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Mrs. Mortis
Mrs. J Wyatt
Mrs. Dr Patterson
Mrs. Donaldson
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Mrs. R. Parker
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Roll of Honor

FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 - 1918

Major Matheson
Pte. J. T. Spriggs
Pte J. Hendrickson
Pte. Robert Burns
Pte C. McGibbon
Pte S. K. Fenner
Pte J. W. McClean
Pte H. L. Smith
Pte. Clarke
Pte. Wm Wade
Pte. Ralph Hearn
Pte. R. Calder
Pte A. Quirke
Pte Jas Lamb
Pte. W. Fahey
Pte. C. A. Stephens
Pte Frank Gibbs
Trumpr. Wm Sloss
Pte. A. W. Chenier
Pte A. McGibbon
Pte. W. Morrison
Pte. D. Bell
Sapper Gordon M.C.
F Lt. N. McLaughlin
Cadet. Cadet Crawford
Pte. Shaw
Pte. Smith
Pte Frank W. Ford
Lt. C. Butterworth
Pte. N. Bell
F/Lt Spec. Cable
Pte Wm Marsh
Sgt. Baker
Pte Thos. Tweed
Lt James Cant
Pte. Lawrence McDougall
Bennet McCargar
W. Livesay

Pte. J. H. Bannon
Pte A. Hamilton
Pte E. Jamieson
Pte Percy Lee
Pte. F. R. Fraser
Pte. R. Shields
Pte A. McKeen
Pte F. Scott
Bombr. Penn
Pte H. F. Park
Pte J. C. Fashon
Pte. D. M. Campbell
Pte. J. Innis
Pte. C. Millikenen
Pte R. E. Shaw
Pte G. Williams
Sgt. Robt. Wallace
Cadet R. Forth
Pte. F. Colquhoun
Pte. J. Ferguson
Pte. Chenerson
Pte. Stirling Cox
Pte W. Heyne
Pte. Stevenson
L/Cpl. A. Rice
Pte. A. Crabbe
Pte Alex Robertson
Carl Hegeve
Pte. J. W. Sleek
Pte. W. Bean
Pte W. G. Angus
Cadet V. C. Basford
Pte C. E. Johnson
Pte Alex Bain
Cpl. W. J. Bannan
Pte. M. Pearl
Cpl. E. C. Gillett
Pte. J. Acheson

Pte. J. Gamble
Pte G. T. Blackstock
Pte. W. S. Watson
Pte McKay
Pte A. McIntosh
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Pte J. H. B. Turnbull
Pte A. Robinson
Pte J. Parr
Pte. W. R. Simmons
Pte F. Bailey
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Pte A. Laing
Pte. H. McKay
Pte. J. M. Thompson
F/Lt C. ans Hooke
Pte. Wm. Mitchell
Lt J. P. Wills
Cpl. A. F. Morrison
Pte. D. R. Ware
Pte R. McKay Jr.
F. Lt. S. McLaughlin
Pte. C. Bennet
Pte J. L. Richardson
Pte Strathan
Pte Wright
Pte. Wells
Pte. Martin
Pte. J. Dickinson
Pte Mellish
Pte. J. S. Edington
Pte Chas. Baker
Dr W. H. MacDonald
Lt J. A. Cameron
Pte Atkinson
Cpl. A. H. Coles
H. A. Taylor
Pte. H. McEwen

Pte. Ray Adsit
Pte. J. C. Anderson
Pte. J. L. Jardin
Pte. A. C. Cameron
Pte. Stott
Pte. Ray Gordon
Sgt. Chamberlin
Pte. Terrance Finley
Pte. Cyril Crombie
Pte. Donald Matheson
Pte. E. Cook
Pte. M. Eddie
Pte. N. Atkinson
Pte. J. C. Collins
Pte. A. Forbes
Lt. A. W. Staines
Pte. Dan Mulholland
Lt. Gordon Tuttle R.S.O
Pte. F. Page
Sgt. J. B. Graham
Pte. J. Green
Pte. John Walker
Pte. R. W. Anderson
PTE. R. ROBERTSON
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Pte. P. R. McDonald
Pte. Quentin Kennedy
Pte. F. Hall
Pte. Frank M Nigan
Pte. T. F. Tuttle
Pte. Chas. Tyrrell
Pte. S. Ellis
Pte. Harry Matthews
Lt. J. E. C. Gibbons
Cpl. Wm. Kennedy
J. W. Hall
R. M. Shark
M. C. Gibson
E. M. Gilleran
R. R. McIntosh
T. H. M. Turner
H. R. Young
Geo. Fahy
A. S. Macpherson
Lt/Col. F. O. Stearns
Pte. Sophie
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W. H. Conway
L/Cpl. Davidson
Robt. Marsh
A. G. Eakins
H. A. Blaskall
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Pte. Wm. Lakey
J. F. Bell
Pte. J. Rumsheim
Pte. Bennett
Pte. W. E. Blossom
Pte. G. A. Adsit
Lt. A. Cox
Pte. E. Fairbay
Sgt. Fenwick Rutherford
Pte. Asa Davidson
Lt. Basil Jones
F. Lt. Lawson
Pte. Jay Watson
Pte. T. Towle
Pte. C. Elliott
F/Lt. C. E. Weir
Pte. Chas. Sweetlove
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Pte. McDonald
Pte. Jackson
Pte. J. Johnson
Pte. Laurie Rumsey
Pte. Fleming
Pte. H. Bain
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Pte. Urquhart
Pte. C. McNish
Pte. Jas. Shannon
Sgt. R. D. Ogilvie
Pte. Easy Matthews
Lt. Wm. Saffour
Frank A. Roberts
W. F. Bennett
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W. W. Fleming
Cpt. F. McWilliams
R. M. Tull
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C. C. Purnell
Cpl. A. L. Merriam
Pte. Medrielson
Trumpet L. L. Lacroix
S. L. Hasbrouck
C. Matheson
Jas. Cotter
J. H. Cain
F. Hall
A. L. Fraser
Cpl. J. Stewart
J. D. MacLean
T. Westcott
Robert Mabee
John S. Mitchell
Lt. Jas. Mort
Pte. H. J. Cox
Pte. Rivers
Pte. J. Campbell
Pte. J. C. Auld
Pte. Jas. Clark
Pte. T. Fraser
Sgt. Elmer Wright
Pte. J. Boyd
Adt. R. Tuttle
Pte. J. Collins
Pte. Donaldson
Pte. D. M. Scott
Pte. Farrel
Lt. Horace Willis
Pte. Frank Willard
Sir Knight, M.D.
Pte. Faughter
Pte. Henderson
Pte. Norman Prentice
Sgt. B. E. Black
Pte. Ernest Smith
Pte. R. Harvey
Pte. A. Fleischmann
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Lt. Rogers
Pte. Jas. Forester
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G Thornton
W. S. Short
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Sgt. Black Ferrier
Pte. R. Shaw
Pte. McKenzie
Pte. Andrew Semple

There were ten Regiments recruited in Middlesex that during the First War — The 2nd C.M.R. Communia Lt Col. F. O. Sessels of which 36 men were from St. John's. The 78th Battalion, Commanding Lt/Col Nelson Spencer of which there were 24 men from St. John's. There were many more men who joined other Regiments

Roll of Honor

SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945

Kenneth W. Michie
Donald Anderson
Walter [illegible]
John G. Mellhuish
Lorne McKenzie
Bob Lee
Robert A. Lindsay
Hollis E. McCombe
William G. O. Rose
Dave Starling
William McQueen
Wm. Q. Pickwright
Marshall Bennett
Gordon McArthur
Jas. M. Tayo
J. Lyle Wyatt

Cecil J. Craig
John A. Porter
Kenneth Perrin
Georgen Armstrong
S. A. Begg
John A. Bell
Allan J. McMillan
Frank (Pink) McMillan
Allan Hopkins Sr.
Kenneth M. Gray
Edward (Ted) Grey
Fergus Fraser
George Deans
Robert La Dow
James St. Aubin
Alan Hopkins Jr.

[illegible] Elder
William Norris
James A. Fountain
W. [illegible] Hollingworth
James Matchett
James Anderson
Gladdie Grant
Elmer Neilman
Payne Shahatka
Robert M. Hobbs
Wm. Ian McLaren
G. R. Baker
E. A. Parrish
J. A. M. Ross
Jimmy Mills
Evatt Neiman

Doug la Moff dden
Jack Fraser Short
Stephen B. Selley
E. E. M nleton
M. J. M nleton
Gordon A. Simmons
J A. Ba le
W Sterling
H W. Lock ng
W B McQueen
E J Mallard
Jas. Crockett
R J. G ay
Jack E. Fitzpatrick
John Hargrave
H T. Hargrave
F W R Greatwell
Robert Connell
R. E G ay
Robert Tufts
J H M tchell
W A. Rutherford
N. T Mad mell
G N Laing
Helen Hill
Betty Hopkins
E. M. Roche
Hnn Gunns
S. A. M fflelon
Jane Le dlaw
Helen M tche l
Margaret L. Hargrave
A. M. Hargrave
K. Fitzpatrick
S. L. Mellard

James Bain
R L. McLeis
J W Pitch
W C B lley
W M Cornis
Bruce Tattersley
Hugh Pushie
J A M fflelon
O C. Fi nell
S L. Ohno ne
R A Davidson
E J. Rafferfert
R C Peeke
A A Lucking
W J. Mickle
P E Mitche
K C McKenzie
Bruce Gust
Sonia Stagg
S J MacYoung d
G A Slattmyre
R T Pitch
J J Osborne
Jas. Murray
Wm MacGregor
R MacGregor
Jihn MacGregor
Go dno ffel
Jos Bell
E M Lloyll
J Crothers
Winston Duggan
Ewart Duggan
John Muir
J E. M MacKinnon

W F Bu the
F M Gladland
Howard W Gleorge
Herrick Roche
B W Wright
S. Wright
W Akers
S. S Be
W Gray
F W Fou sten
W G. Cle k
W O Mill s
L A Laid aw
G. E McQueen
W E MacLeod
J. S. McNichol
T G Runnett
W J Branson
R Y Fiher
Ford Fleig
S. W Fraser
W R Mag idge
John Stearns
Thomas Stearns
Elsie Smaile
Sam N Sabbs
Agnes Hopkins
Colin Macdonald
Norman Mc ntun
Cecil Matthews
Grace Patterson
James F alt
Gladys Pushie
Norma Fisher
Gifford Fisher

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF BELOVED MEMBERS

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS
WEST SIDE OF SANCTUARY

In Memory of	*Presented by:*
James Harg ave 1849-1918 Alexandra Helen Hargrave 1 885- 912	Their Children
Henry Stewart	Maurice Stone
Jean and Richard Becker	Phyll a and Charles Gerber Ruth Hughes
William and Jessa Crosbie Catherine Thornton Jessie E Bell	Grace Crosbie
The Hawthorne Fam y	Presented 1964
E Aiken Macintosh Mary Florence MacIntosh	Arlene and Roy Pettigrew

EAST SIDE OF SANCTUARY

Herbert Stevens 188— 946 Lissa H Stevens 1885- 964	The S evens Family
Albert Koojman 1884-1951	Lenan and Wayer
Janet Mitchell 1852-1941 Margaret Mitchell 1849-1941	Mrs. J. (Helena a) Mitchell
Br J C. Hargrave 1876-1942 and h s w fe Mary Jean 1874-1962	Howard Campbell Ste ns Edith and Margaret
J Jessop Nott 1879-1965	Nora Nott

GIFT	IN MEMORY OF	PRESENTED BY
Doors to the Sanctuary	JOHN JESSOP NOTT	Nora Nott
The Pipe Organ	MEMBERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN TWO WARS 1914— 1918 1939 945	The Congregation
The Chimes	THOS. S. MONTGOMERIE	Grace Montgomerie
Pulpit Bible and Study Lamp	FREDERICK JACKA ANNIE JACKA	The Family
Baptismal Font	REV. AND MRS. AITEN MacINTOSH	Arlene and Roy Pettigrew
Memorial Plaque	THE REV. JAMES HEWAT	St. John's Congregation
Memorial Tapestry	THOMAS TWEED ESQ	Children of the Church
Cushions for Pews in Sanctuary	FLORA MINOR KNAP	Her Estate
New Book of Praise (Revised 1972) Complete Set for Congregational Use	MR. JOE DAVIS	His Estate

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Mr. & Mrs. Bob Abery
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Anderson
Mrs. Anne Armstrong
Mrs. Margaret Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Barclay
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Barr
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Barrie
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Barrie
Mr. Harry Bateman
Miss Phyllis Becke
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Bellamy
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bellamy
Miss Heather Bellamy
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Bellamy
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Mrs. Flora Hendsan
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Hudson
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Mrs. Sylvia Larsen
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Mr. & Mrs. Hans d Lefever
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Mr. & Mrs. Bob Marsha
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Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Mayo
Mr. & Mrs. Doug McArthur
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon McArthur
Mr. & Mrs. J. McCaig
Mr. & Mrs. Ed McCombe
Miss Ruth McFall
Mr. & Mrs. Harry McFarlane
Mrs. Kathleen McKee
Mr. & Mrs. Bill McKee
Mr. & Mrs. Ed McKee
Mrs. Hazel McKenzie
[illegible] Mrs. Heidi McKenzie
Mr. & Mrs. Barry McKenzie
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Mr & Mrs Tom Stevens
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Miss Mar ret Smith
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Mr & Mrs Vern Sobey
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Mr Stephen Sorensen
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Mr Alex Fosterbe

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

ST JOHN S CHURCH RECORDS

Minute Books of Session
Minute Books of Board of Managers
Minute Books of Sunday School

Communion Rolls

Incomplete 1886- 973
Incomplete 1884-1973
1884-1886
1908-1979
1886-1979

Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Carshow Senator F W — SAANR

Mc row Rev J W — Early H story of the Mid cine Hat Country

McKellar Rev Hugh — Presbyterian Pioneer Id sisters

Stephen, Rev Charles — Historical Sketch

Robertson Mr William — Letter

Stelfox, J J — Curator Medicine Hat H storica and Museum Pamphlet

Medicine Hat and E st ct Hist. ical Society

City of Medicine Ha Assessment Department

The Medicine Hat News — Mi cell n Records

Hillside Cemetery Reco ds

All photographs are courtesy of St. John s Church the Historical Museum
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Dr E C Smith
Dorothy Hanley
J. A. Kehoe
Sam Weld e

Hel e Hargrave Mitchell
Frances Jenkins
Jack Sissons
Caroline Conrad Fle g

D G Grant
Alice Ann Hawthorpe
Ray Fosterine

and many fo mer Leaders of Church Organ zat ons and Groups

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Vel Marshall Printing (1966) Ltd
Med cine Hat Alberta
1973

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Minister: The Rev. D. C. Smith B.A., B.D., Ph.D.
Organist and Choir Leader: Mrs. R. E. Pedersen

SESSION

Moderator: The Rev. D. C. Smith — 526-3419
Clerk of Session: M. F. S. Grant — 526-3413

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G. Cooke	526-2407	E. Lloyd	527-0196
J. Cuthbertson	526-4447	A. V. Marshall	526-2132
C. F. Dawkes (Mrs.)	827-2579	S. McArthur	526-6818
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A. G. Gordon	597 1127	R. H. Ports	852-2 29
W. G. Hanley	527 2999	J. S. Pratt	826-3536
E. S. Hawthorne	526-2786	G. H. Schneider	922-5892

Retiring: L. deJong
On temporary leave of absence: H. Sawyer, 527-2679; J. Tufford, 526-3656; D. VanWyngaarden, 527-2481

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Chairman: K. L. Fauser — 527-2493
Secretary-Treasurer: J. A. Harris — 526-4272

J. D. Barrie (Mrs.)	527 5827	A. Marshall (Mrs.)	527-2583
E. F. Hagemeister	527 2972	A. Metz	527-3546
S. A. Hall	527 2742	W. E. Morrison	597 2988
J. Hazen	522-4781	T. Potts (Mrs.)	927-3568
J. Jenkins	524-6265		

J. R. Barrie — 526-3126
K. L. Fauser — 527-2493
J. A. Harris — 526-4272
J. F. Pratt — 526-3126
H. S. Richardson — 526-2806
F. A. Vanwesenbeeck — 527-4866
M. H. Yuell — 597-4720

Church Secretary	Miss E. Mahrer — 526-4277
Envelopes, Record, These Days'	Church Office — 526-4342
Rentsheer Organ fees	Mrs. J. Banks — 527-4918
Church Flowers	Mrs. A. Elder — 526-2211
Sunday Nursery	Mrs. G. Rivers — 526-3438
Ushering Committee	Mr. J. Tufford — 526-3656
Church Caretaker	M. F. Pedersen — 526-2734

CHURCH SCHOOL

11.00 a.m. — Kindergarten Department — Every Sunday (ages 4½ - 5)
12.15 p.m. — 3rd Sunday of Month (6 - 12)

WEEKLY MEETINGS:

Sunday	7:30 p.m.	Youth Group	Mr. G. Hillis	527-6506
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Cubs	Mr. H. Bland	527-2350
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Brownies	Mrs. C. Patton	526-2111
	7:30 p.m.	Girl Guides	Mrs. S. Hill	527-2211
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts	Mr. J. Stevens	927 1307
Thursday	4:30 p.m.	Junior Choir	Mrs. W. VanderKamp	927 1307
	8:00 p.m.	Senior Choir	Mrs. R. Pedersen	826-4437 526-3178

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

2nd Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Ladies Aid	Mrs. W. Bradley	822-4824
2nd Tuesday	8:00 p.m.	Hargrave/Taylor W.M.S.	Mrs. R. McArthur	926-5015
3rd Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Scout Group Committee	Mr. A. Willard	526-6057
4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Board of Managers	Mr. K. L. Fauser	527 2493
4th Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Session	Mr. D. Read	526-3861

EVERY OTHER:

Wednesday	2:30 p.m.	Ninth Slice Circle	Mrs. F. Sherry	526-5056
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Hi Circle	Mrs. R. Gallo	526 2482
3rd Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Third Street Circle	Mrs. W. Mcgregor	526 3836
	8:00 p.m.	Thursday Club	Mrs. M. Chisholm	526 6971

COMMUNION SUNDAYS:

1st Sunday — October
2nd Sunday — December — March — June

ERRATA: 4. Page 46 missing name in Bad Halstow

5. List of elders, add 1886 Thomas Finlay; add 1948 J F Rutherford and A M Smith; correction 1941 J-H instead of J.L Wyatt

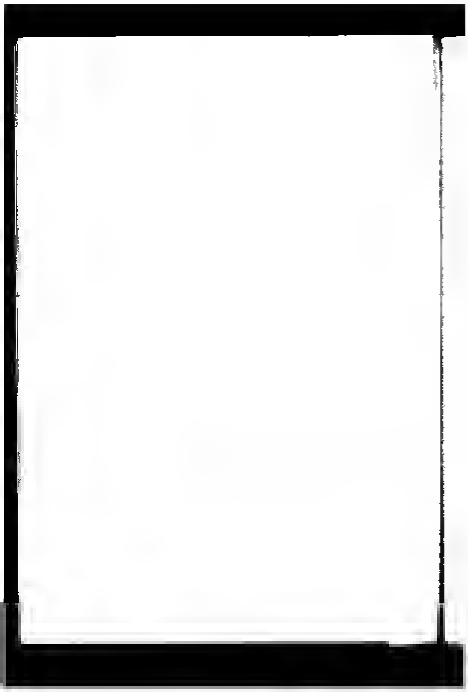
6 Page 105 List of W M.S. presidents add Mrs. J. Hagerty 1951 - 1956

7. Page 131 - line 3 correction birthdate of Alexandra Helen Hargrave 1853 instead of 1835

ERRATA 1 Page 79 Line 9
should read — September 30, 1956

2. Page 81 Line 30
should read — 1972-73 Mr. Ken Fauser

3. Page 133 Bibliography Line 3
should read — 1884-1973



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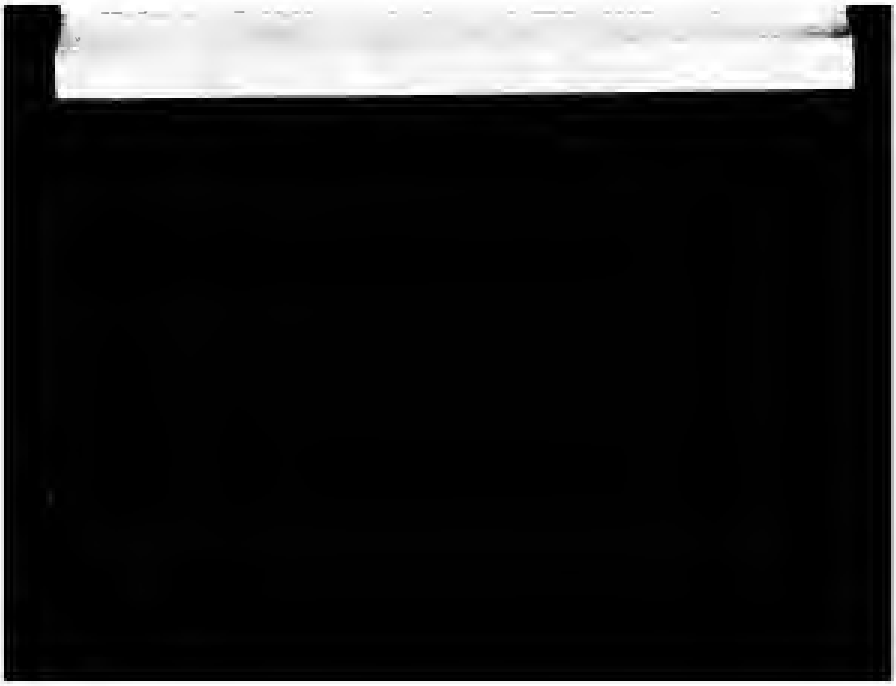

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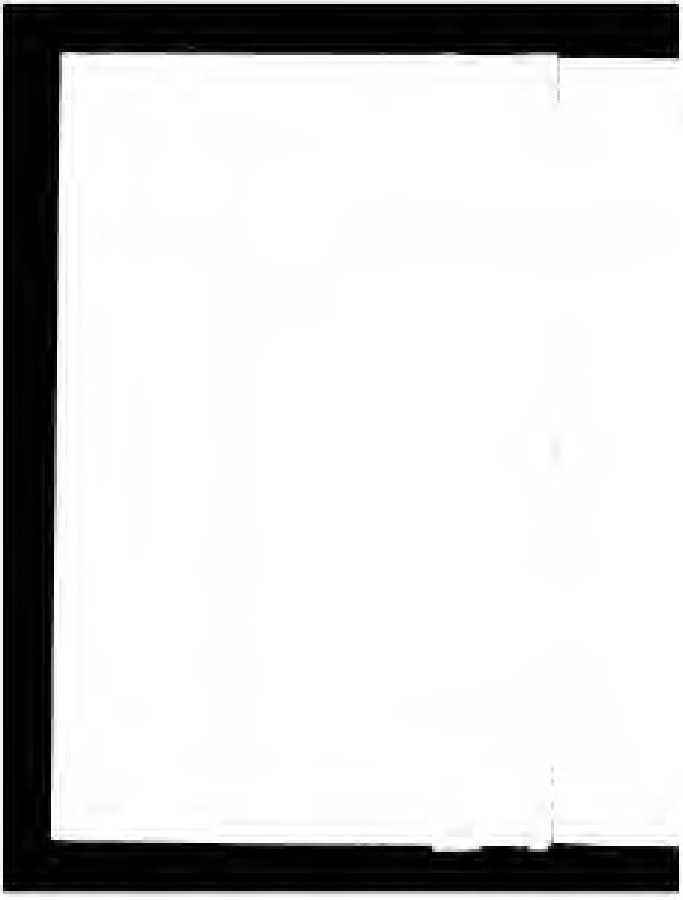

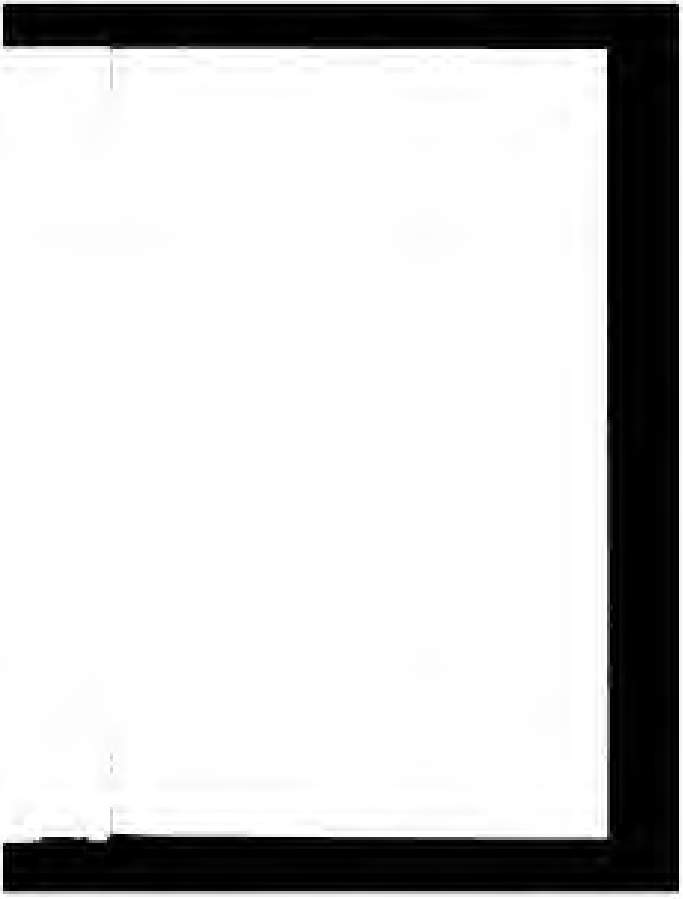

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Margaret Dowkes
Writer and Compiler
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Published and Authorized by
The Session and Board of Managers
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Medicine Hat Alberta
On the Occasion of
THE NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY
of the Congregation
1883-1973

OTHER MEMBERS OF HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Miss Grace Cousins
60-year member of St. John's

Mr. McLaren Ewart

Mrs. Myrl (Edna) Smith

Miss Eleanor Mehrer

Published by
Val Marshall Printing (1969) Ltd
1973

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PREFACE

Many people too numerous to mention are responsible for the production of this history of St. John's. On behalf of the Session and Congregation I wish to thank them each and all. In particular, however, I would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Margaret Dewkes without whose initiative and organizational ability and hard work this book would not have seen the light of day.

DONALD C. SMITH

TENT TOWN 1883

PILE BRIDGE ACROSS THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER 1883

VILLAGE OF MEDICINE HAT 1884-85
(Presbyterian Church at far right)

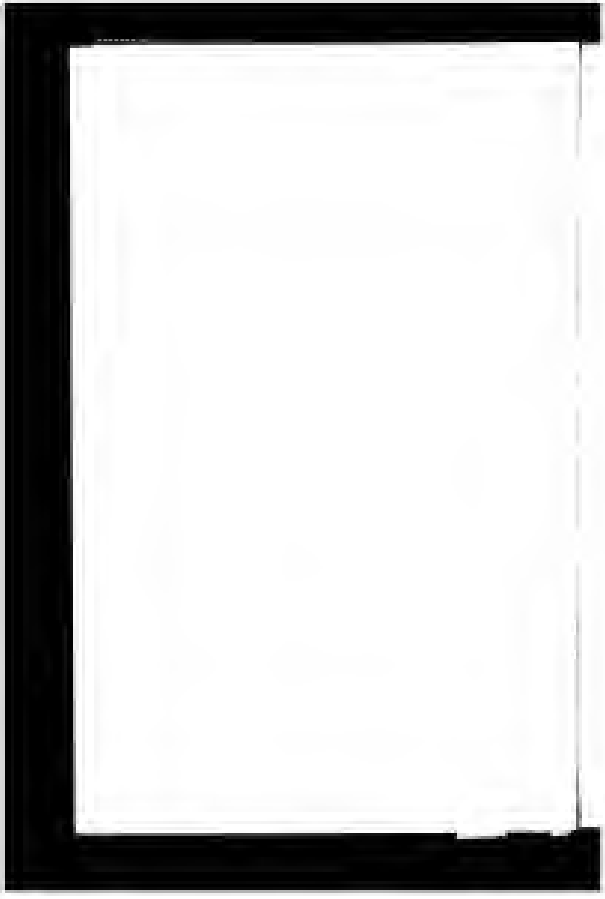
1883 - 1973
History of St. John's Church

INTRODUCTION

This small book has been compiled to relate as well as possible the history of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta. The record is far from complete due to the fact that minute books and documents covering many years of church history are missing entirely, but the History Committee is most fortunate in the possession of the very first minute books of the Session, Board of Managers and the Sunday School. Since everyone's interest centres around the actual beginning of the Congregation, these records are invaluable in building up a picture of those first years in our community. The reason for the establishment of this History now is the forthcoming celebration of the 90th Anniversary of St. John's which will be held on Sunday, June 3, 1973. The exact anniversary date of the first gathering of Presbyterians in the little hamlet of Medicine Hat. As the time of writing, we have long since achieved the status of a city which has become an oasis of beautiful homes and gardens. In the bare prairie landscape, but in order to appreciate the foresight and courage of those pioneers who organized our Church, we must look back to the early condition of this small settlement on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

Indians had camped for years on the land we now know as the Flats. Early in 1883, the C.P.R. sent a large crew of men to Medicine Hat to build a temporary bridge across the river, so a construction camp was laid out for them. The need for provisions drew an influx of merchants, but as the townsite had not yet been surveyed, these people were obliged to pitch their tents where they could easily move them when the streets were laid out. For some time all business was done in tents, then stores and houses were erected as materials were shipped in. The town had no sidewalks, street lights or running water in those days, water carts being used to deliver water at 25c a barrel.

In the spring of 1883, Medicine Hat was only a cluster of tents and shacks near the site of the railway bridge which was being constructed at that time. The C.P.R. tracks had been laid as far as Dunmore, and building the roadbed down the coulee leading to the Saskatchewan River, was rapidly being completed. Until this was finished, the only method of travel was by horseback or on foot.



THE BEGINNING OF A CONGREGATION

Rev. Angus Robertson

On Friday, June 1, 1883 a traveller from the East arrived in the little tent town of Medicine Hat in the person of Rev. Angus Robertson, who was a graduate of Knox College, Toronto and who had been sent West by the Presbyterian Church in May 1883 to do Home Mission work in the Calgary field. He was ordained in Winnipeg on May 23, 1883 and continued his journey West with his brother William arriving in Medicine Hat on June 1. The two men spent Saturday going around the hamlet becoming acquainted with the people and they found enough Presbyterians to organize a church service for the next day. The location of a meeting place was their main problem until Mr. G. F. Trapper offered the use of his tent store. So everyone was notified and invitations were extended to all of the residents to attend. Planks were placed on kegs in rows to provide seating arrangements and so amid the clutter of groceries, hardware, clothing and supplies of all kinds, Mr. Robertson conducted the first service in Medicine Hat, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This meeting accomplished two purposes — it made the residents aware of their spiritual church affiliations and it encouraged them to hold services from that time on, whenever it was possible to do so. During the summer of 83, Rev. G. M. McHugen, D.D., of Toronto conducted a service and Mr. Trapper erected a special tent for this purpose. Two other Ministers, Rev. P. Wright and Rev. R. Hamilton each conducted services in the C.P.R. depot. In the fall, Mr. C. M. Copeland, Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Winnipeg, held services in the Brunswick Hotel for three weeks. These meetings helped the Presbyterian families to become acquainted with one another. The Methodists had erected a building in 1883, and our members were extended the privilege of using this building after it was finished. Rev. Mr. Robertson reported to Toronto and Winnipeg headquarters the fact that the Presbyterians held their first service in Medicine Hat on June 3, 1883.

BUILDING A CHURCH

By April of 1884 the Presbyterian members felt that they had a sufficient number to warrant building a church for themselves so on April 23, 1884 a public meeting of Presbyterians was held at the store of Mr. George McCraig at 8:30 p.m. to take into consideration the advisability of erecting a place of worship. A Missionary Mr. David Anderson, B.A. had arrived in the village and no doubt his presence encouraged the members to take positive action at that time. Mr. Thomas Tweed was called to the chair with Mr. Sam Archibald acting as Secretary of the meeting. A committee was appointed composed of Messrs. Tweed, McCuaig, Hargrave, Tupper and Archibald, to take up subscriptions for the erection of a building. The financial aspect of this undertaking must have required great faith and courage on the part of these people who were all struggling to establish their businesses and build homes so that they could send for their families. Statistics from official Church records in Toronto show that Medicine Hat had twelve Presbyterian members; this figure of course did not include adherents.

Mr. Anderson was of great assistance in guiding the plans, explaining that our Church in the East had established a Church and Manse Building Fund, with headquarters in Winnipeg, to loan to new congregations up to 50% of the cost of new churches. Accordingly the men decided to erect a frame building 20 x 36. The cost to be determined as soon as possible. The meeting also discussed the cost of maintaining the Congregation for the summer, estimating that $13.00 per week would cover their expenses. They agreed to use the envelope system of givings and instructed Mr. Rinsell the Secretary to order 1,000 envelopes, 2 dozen hymn books, 6 copies of Harmonized Hymnal and also 50 chairs. The meeting then adjourned to meet one week later. This time Mr. Wm. Cousins acted as Chairman and the first business was the election of a Board of Managers, these being:

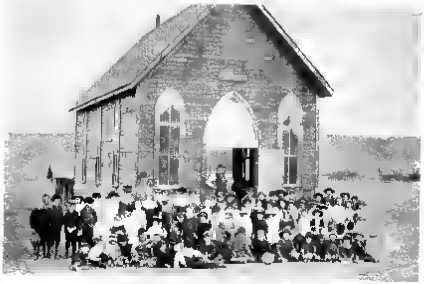
Mr. J. Hargrave	Mr. Sam Porter
Mr. Geo. McCuaig	Mr. G. F. Tupper
Mr. Wm. Cousins	Mr. Sam Archibald
Mr. Thomas Tweed	

In the light of historical records one realizes that the Congregation of 1884 chose wisely and well, since all of these men served their Church with unwavering devotion. Several of them lived in Medicine Hat for the balance of their lives, giving unstintingly of their talents and material wealth to build up the Congregation which they helped to organize.

This meeting voted to let the Building Committee select the site of the church, and apply to the Church and Manse Building Fund for 50% of the cost. After the meeting adjourned the Board of Man-

agers immediately held their first Board meeting, at which time Mr. Consins offered his store on River Street for services until the church was built. The Missionary, Mr. Anderson, offered to go around to get subscriptions for the running expenses.

In the next month frequent meetings were held, these usually being at 8:30 p.m., in the Lansdowne Hotel, or at one of the stores. Detailed plans of the church structure were discussed, and at first it was decided to have plain, rectangular windows with a steeple on the roof. However, some of the Managers were strongly in favor of Gothic windows and door which they knew would be more expensive. However, when Mr. Tweed and Mr. McCuaig explained that the additional cost would not exceed $20.00, and that Mr. Tweed would get the windows up from Winnipeg by express free of cost, it was decided to obtain the Gothic windows and door, but to cut down costs by dispensing with the steeple. The tender of Messrs. McRae and Hewk to erect the church for $125.00 was accepted, and Mr. Finlay's price for the lumber was also agreed upon. And so, our first church was built, with Gothic windows and door, but covered with a plain roof — and a debt which was not lifted for fifteen years. A loan was successfully obtained from Winnipeg for $250.00. At this time, the Church was under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Manitoba. The site chosen for the building was the exact location of the present church property, but the fact that the Presbyterians did not hold title to the land did not seem to worry anybody. It is possible that most of the residents were "Squatters" until the roads could be surveyed and lots staked out.



First church used as a school

On July 21, 1884, it is proudly recorded that the Board met in the new Presbyterian Church. The Episcopal Denomination was extended an invitation to meet in our church free of charge at any time they might need it, except on Sunday evenings. A vote of thanks was sent to the Methodist Church for the use of their building while ours was under construction.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Anderson must have been busy rounding up the children of the Congregation because he held an organization meeting of the Sunday School on June 29, 1884, even before the roof was finished. The 50 chairs arrived for use, and an organ appeared on the scene, so with hymn books, organ and choirs, Mr. Anderson was able to conduct a service with some semblance of dignity and order. The first regular Sunday School was held on July 6, with 15 pupils in attendance, and a collection of 80¢.

The Presbyterian Church has always placed great emphasis on education, and this is borne out in a study of the way in which the Sunday School spent their meager collection money. Before they were in operation for three months they purchased 20 books to start a library, the next year adding more volumes. The record book contains a complete account of the books taken out and returned by the pupils, indicating that at least 69 books were available for the children to read. When one realizes that new settlers could not afford to ship any but the bare necessities to this pioneer settlement, one can appreciate the importance of that little Sunday School library, as these may have been the only books available to the children.

The emphasis on education, together with the spirit of generosity so evident in western pioneers, was displayed when the Board of Managers entered into an arrangement with the School Board, giving the use of the church for public school for all of the pupils in the village. This soon became a source of embarrassment and contention, due to the fact that members of the Board and Congregation were sometimes acting as Trustees as well. Financial problems and abuse of the building by as many as 75 pupils created really awkward situations. The first indication that school was actually being held in our church is recorded in the minutes of October 10, 1884, when the School Board offered to pay one-half of the expenses of a building at the back of the church to hold wood and seats. Our Board replied that we had no funds for this. Preparations had to be made, however, for the cold winter to come, and Mr. Sam Porter was paid $5.00 to bank up the church building with earth. We must remember that this building was only a shell with the rafters and studding exposed on the inside. So on Nov. 17, the Managers arranged to have the interior of the church "ceiled with good dry lumber," requesting the School Board to dismiss classes for two days while this was being done.

THE PIONEER WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Mrs Wm Cousins

Mrs Jas Hargrave

We have very little knowledge of the women who made up our Congregation in the first year or two but we have great admiration for them as they struggled in the most primitive circumstances to establish comfortable homes for their husbands and children During the Riel Rebellion in 1885 all of the new settlers lived in fear of Indian raids and it is said that a C.P.R. engine was kept fired up in readiness to evacuate the woman and children at both Medicine Hat and Calgary A battalion of soldiers from Halifax was stationed here in tents for the protection of the hamlet but the roistering of the men as they galloped about on horseback did not add to anyone's peace of mind or sense of security

We can establish the names of some of the ladies who were here in 83 - 84 as they must have been the mothers of Sunday School pupils and we proudly salute these pioneer women of St John's

Mrs. Wm Cousins	Mrs Tom Tweed	Mrs. Allot	Mrs. Walton
Mrs. Davie	Mrs. Bassett	Mrs McKay	Mrs Norquay
Mrs McCutcheon	Mrs. McPherson	Mrs Harper	Mrs McNab
Mrs Bailey	Mrs Hargrave	Mrs Homes	Mrs. Casey

The very first record of these ladies taking an active part in affairs was on Sept 9 1884 when they met at the Church at 4 p.m (after school) to organize a committee to get up an entertainment Again on Oct 10 1884 a meeting was called to prepare a farewell for Mr Anderson the Missionary who was leaving to return to college in Winnipeg He had helped the Church a great deal during the building program and had been with the people from April 23 to October 1884 These activities of the ladies are typical of women's work for the next ninety years in St John's

DEVELOPMENT UNDER OUR EARLY MINISTERS

The next Pastor to minister to the needs of the Congregation was Rev. Thomas Davidson M.A. who arrived from Wroxter, Ont., in November 1884, and stayed until the following August. He was the Minister who conducted the first two Communion Services for Presbyterians in Medicine Hat, the date of the first being Jan. 18, 1885. The Communion record book gives the names of 7 members who partook of the elements on that date.

Mrs. McPherson	Mrs. Helen Tweed
Mr. Thos. Tweed	Mr. James Norquay
Mr. Geo. McCuaig	Mrs. J. Norquay
Mr. James Hargrave	

Mr. McCuaig, who was an ordained Elder, formerly from Winnipeg, assisted Mr. Davidson. The second Communion service was held in July 1885, when 14 members participated, new names being —

W. T. Finlay	Mrs. J. Horner
Mrs. Finlay	Mrs. Lawson
Mrs. J. Fisher	Miss Sarah Horner
Mr. James Horner	

During this period the financial condition of our new Congregation was one of continual worry over money matters. The Board had received a loan of $250.00 from the Church & Manse Building Fund in 1884, but in less than a year their other debts amounted to $200.00. Mr. Finlay's bill for the lumber to line the church in November was an additional $115.78, so at the Board meeting on Feb. 16, 1885 the members agreed that they should divide the amount equally between themselves to lift the burden from Mr. Finlay. Before taking this drastic action, however, they decided at the same meeting to get up an entertainment to partly pay off the debt. The committee to be Messrs. McCuaig, Tweed, Finlay, Cousins and Davidson. The date for the concert to be March 4th. They must have played to a packed house because they later reported taking in the sum of $40.25. They also got $10.00 for renting the church for Court purposes, and a special collection of $7.25. This was all applied on the debt, and then seven men each donated $8.30 to wipe out the amount owing to Mr. Finlay for the lumber.

Abuse of the building by the school was a continual worry, and it became so bad that in April 1885 the Board sent a notice to the School Trustees that "unless they engage a responsible person to put the church in perfect order on Saturday for Sabbath services the Board will refuse them the use of the building."

Rev. Mr. Davidson planned to leave Medicine Hat by Aug. 22 1885 to visit Scotland, and the Board owed him $49.15 arrears of salary. Since the finances of the Church were at a low ebb the Managers were obliged to go out and collect money to pay him.

ARRIVAL OF REV. JAMES HERALD

After Mr. Davidson left the Congregation wrote to Winnipeg requesting the office there to send a good man to them. The Church at Minnedosa was also without a Minister and the name of Rev. James Herald B.A., B.D., was suggested for both Congregations. Dr. Gordon in Winnipeg cast the deciding vote in favor of Medicine Hat. So in November 1885, the Rev. Mr. Herald came to minister to the Congregation. He was the first pastor who had a family so it immediately became necessary for the Congregation to provide a Manse.

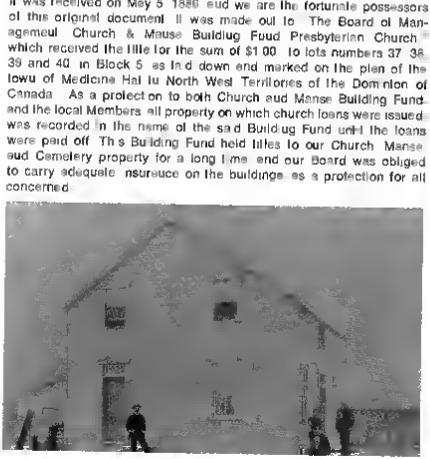
Rev. James Herald

The Galt Coal Company owned a building adjacent to the railroad bridge which had been used for an office so the Board offered in November 1885 to buy it for $600.00. There was an urgent need for this matter to be settled as Mr. Herald's family would soon arrive in the village to live. Mr. Galt replied by telegram on Nov. 30 that he would sell the building for $600.00 but advised that he did not hold title to the land on which it stood and would not be responsible for same. The Board agreed to purchase the building, sent Mr. Galt $100.00 in cash and the Managers note for 30 days for the balance, until a loan of $400.00 could be obtained from the Church & Manse Building Fund. This was typical of the financial picture for several years except that the debts got bigger and bigger.

The Manse stood near the railway bridge for the next 14 years. When it was eventually moved over beside the church the extensive repairs done on it indicate that it was a very poor structure. However it was a frame house and it became home to the Herald family during the five years that they occupied it. The Sunday School record has a notation in ink on Dec. 20, 1885, saying "Rev. Herald's family arrived today" thus showing the excitement in the Congregation over this happy event.

Now that a permanent Minister had come to reside in the village the church members must have felt a new sense of security and the Board of Managers was able to arrange with the Board of Missions in Toronto for assistance in payment of Mr. Herald's stipend. St. John's was a *Mission Charge* for the next 14 years. In 1885 receiving $300.00 toward the salary of $650.00. This must have been a great help to the members as their debts grew larger as the years went by. The communicant membership still numbered only 15 in 1885 so the financial problems are quite understandable.

The land on which our church building stood was received as a gift from the North-West Land Company on Jan. 14, 1886 and our Board of Managers extended a sincere vote of thanks to the Company for this very fine contribution to the work of Presbyterianism in Medicine Hat. Mr. Tweed and Mr. Finley were instructed to look after the transfer of the deed which was to be registered in Regina. It was received on May 5, 1886 and we are the fortunate possessors of this original document. It was made out to "The Board of Management Church & Manse Building Fund Presbyterian Church" which received the title for the sum of $1.00 to lots numbers 37, 38, 39 and 40 in Block 5 as laid down and marked on the plan of the town of Medicine Hat in North West Territories of the Dominion of Canada. As a protection to both Church and Manse Building Fund and the local Members all property on which church loans were issued was recorded in the name of the said Building Fund until the loans were paid off. This Building Fund held titles to our Church, Manse and Cemetery property for a long time and our Board was obliged to carry adequate insurance on the buildings as a protection for all concerned.



The Old Manse

The Presbyterian Church has always been noted for its excellent structure of democratic government first with General Assembly down to Synod then Presbytery then the local Congregation The Church officers in Eastern Canada must have been hard-pressed to keep up with the expansion in the West during the 80s and 90s This is evident in the official church records which show that Medicine Hat belonged to four different Presbyteries from 1883- 1888 We were first included in the Presbytery of Manitoba which was described by one Church historian as The biggest Presbytery in the world extending from the Manitoba boundary to the Rocky Mountains and North to the Arctic Ocean We were then included in

Presbytery of Brandon — March 31 1885
Presbytery of Regina — March 31 1886
Presbytery of Calgary — Dec 31 1887

There were only three Presbyterian churches organized in all of what is now known as Alberta in 1887, these being one in Edmonton with 42 Members Knox in Calgary with 83 Members and Medicine Hat with 46

The influence of Rev Mr Herald's ministry in the village immediately becomes apparent when we learn of the growth and activities of the Congregation The Board was greatly disturbed however when they met on July 5 1886 to consider a letter notifying them that the Home Mission Board was now reducing the grant from $400.00 to $200.00 The Board felt that Home Missions should stand by their agreement until it expired (date not known) Minutes state that "the following resolution was adopted A neat blank space one third of a page in length in the minute book gives no clue as to the resolution and at the next meeting when the minutes were read they were not adopted because the resolution was lacking The Board is responsible for historical problems as well as financial ones! (Toronto records show that we received only $200.00 per year so perhaps the resolution was never sent)

During the time that our Church had been without a resident minister no children had been baptized but shortly after Mr Herald arrived he began to perform these duties and baptismal records were set up It is interesting to note the baptisms performed in 1886 —

Feb 8 1886 — John Frederick Finlay son of Wm and Catherine Finley
July 18 1886 — Isabella MacDonald Cousins daughter of Wm and Jessie Cousins
Sept 12 1886 — James Herald Sage son of Robert and Lillian Sage
Sept 12 1886 — David Eedron Horner son of James and Margaret Horner
Nov 7 1886 — Mary Jane McCutcheon daughter of Robt and Angus Ick McCutcheon
Nov 28 1886 — Catherine McNeb daughter of Alexander and Rachel McNeb

First recorded Marriage — June 28 1886

Robert Nearing — age 29 years
Annie Goldsmith — age 23 years
Witnesses John & Almeda Renck

THE FIRST ORDINATION OF ELDERS

In a congregation that is accustomed to being governed by a Session and Board of Managers, it is puzzling to understand how both the Minister and Congregation functioned without a Session for over two years. However, we can see that up to this time, neither the temporary minister or members themselves had become sufficiently acquainted with each other to be able to select men of the spiritual qualities needed for the heavy responsibilities of forming the first Session of a new church. But by the time Mr. Herald had lived in the village for a few months he felt that the time was ripe for electing Elders.

It will be noted that although the church group was organized in April 1884 and a Sunday School started that same summer it was not until August 22, 1886 that the members met to elect Elders. Rev. James Herald conducting the meeting. All procedures of the Presbyterian Church being complied with, the following gentlemen were elected as Elders:

Mr. Thomas Tweed
Mr. William Cousins
Mr. George McCuaig
Mr. Wm. Thomas Finley
Mr. James Hargrave

Ordination took place after the evening service on Sept. 12, 1886 and Mr. George McCuaig who had been ordained as an Elder in Winnipeg was duly inducted to the same office in Medicine Hat. Mr. McCuaig was an ardent worker both in the Church and the Sunday School but after a few years he moved to the Coast. (Recent efforts to learn more of his later years have been fruitless). The other four original Elders remained in office for many years proving true to the trust and responsibilities laid upon them by a new Congregation.

At the first meeting of the Session, Mr. William Cousins was appointed as Clerk of Session which position he held almost continuously for 32 years. The Session agreed to start weekly prayer meetings on Wednesday nights.

It was an historic occasion when the first Communion service arranged by our own Session was held in the Presbyterian Church, on October 13, 1886, one month after the ordination of Elders. We feel that it is worthy of note to record the names of those 29 people who "received tokens of admission", as this was the nucleus of our Congregation in those early years.

Mr. James Horner
Miss Sarah Horner
Mr. James Hargrave
Mr. William Cousins
Mr. James Norquey
Mrs. Norquey
Mr. Thos. Tweed
Mrs. Tweed
Mrs. Fisher
Mr. Geo. McCully
Mr. R. Sage
Mrs. Sage
Mrs. Hazell
Mr. Herald
Mr. W. T. Finlay
Mrs. Finlay
Mrs. Leys
Mrs. Horner
Mrs. Small
Mrs. Sussil
Mr. Bull
Mrs. Bull
Mrs. McNeil
Mrs. Hargreve

FIRST ELDERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
ORDINATION SERVICE SEPTEMBER 12, 1886

Mr. William Cousins

Mr. James Hargrava

Mr. Thomas Finlay

Mr. Thomas Tweed

Mr. George McCuaig

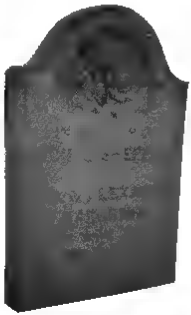
By Profession of Faith

Mrs. Cousins
Mrs. Ferguson
Mr. Robt. McCutcheon
Mrs. Spencer
Mrs. Miller

THE BEGINNING OF HILLSIDE CEMETERY

We realize that death and sorrow often touched the little village and all of the Presbyterian Congregation mourned with Mr. and Mrs. James Hargreve when their little son Cecil died in November 1896 aged two years nine months.

There were at least two cemeteries in the town at that time one of them extending up Sixth Avenue from the present A.M.A. building to Aberdeen and Belfast Streets. Everyone realized that this location was too close to town and that a new site would have to be chosen. Our Board of Managers was aware that Mr. Hargrave wanted his son's body interred in a permanent spot and not moved at a later time so the members met hastily on Sunday evening to discuss a new but permanent location for a cemetery. A report of the meeting was printed in the newspaper and we find the decisions listed as being somewhat conflicting. However, little Cecil Hargrave was buried on Tuesday afternoon at a spot in the centre of the present Hillside Cemetery. It is a beautifully kept park of trees shrubs and green lawns today but on that November day it was a bleak lonely place on the bare prairie about two miles southwest of Medicine Hat just off the trail that led to Fort Macleod.



In Memory of
CECIL E. SHEPPARD
son of
JAMES and ALEXANDRA
HARGRAVE
Died Nov. 7 1896
Aged 2 Years and 3 Months
Of Such Is The Kingdom Of Heaven

PROGRESS TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1890

As the winter of 1886-87 began, the Board of Managers again encountered difficulties with the School Board. The tracking in of mud and snow by the pupils reduced the church building to such a deplorable state that on November 10, 1886, the Church Board held a special meeting at which time they passed a motion to notify the School Trustees to find another building. Motion carried unanimously! Apparently, the matter was smoothed over with the offer by the School Board to pay $15.00 per month rent, retroactive to October, 1886. This was accepted, and school continued to be held in our church.

The Session held regular meetings, and one year after the Elders had been elected, Mr. Thomas Tweed was appointed as Representative Elder, he being the first to hold that office. In March 1888 our Church was part of the Calgary Presbytery and notice was received from Rev. Mr. Herdmen, Clerk of Presbytery, that Mr. Herald and Mr. Tweed were appointed as Commissioners to the General Assembly in Halifax in June 1888. This was a great honor to be extended to our Session. Also, Mr. Tweed was appointed to represent the Presbytery at the Synod meeting in Brandon in May. We have no record of whether or not they attended these meetings. In December, the Session revised the Communion Roll, and it was found that 8 members had moved away, and there were 43 remaining at the end of 1888.

The Medicine Hat School District had become sufficiently organized to start construction of a school building, and Toronto Street School was completed by the end of 1888. Our Church had had a few more problems with them, as the rent got in arrears for a total of $130.00. In February 1888, when the school vacated in January 1889, we had to settle by arbitration the financial obligation for the stove in the church and the building at the rear, both of which had been jointly owned. Apparently, the school lacked enough seats in their new premises at Toronto Street School, because we voted to rent chairs to them for $2.00 per week, for as long as needed. This closed the record of a difficult but important service rendered to the entire community by the Presbyterian Congregation.

St. John's members have always been missionary minded, as evidenced both by the faithful honoring of allocations for the Budget, as well as by the 70-year history of the activities of the W.M.S. and the Guilds. Ours was a Mission Church from 1885 to 1899, receiving for 14 years assistance for the minister's salary during that time.

The members realized that they were very dependent on the Home Mission Board to keep the Congregation going so in spite of the fact that they always had debts to face they tried to support the outreach of the Church as best they could All of Western Canada was being settled very rapidly and new Congregations were being formed across the Prairies. This required colleges for the training of ministers and missionaries supervision of the work in the field and many other responsibilities so all of these projects were entitled "Schemes of the Church" That word Schemes strikes a jarring note on the ears of members 80 years later as it has come to represent something dubious or questionable but in 1890 it held the original meaning of "plans" We are proud to learn that St John's members contributed what little they could to the support of this work. On October 5 1887 the Session agreed that they should help in this matter and in March 1888 they decided that Mr Herald should explain from the pulpit about the slips asking for contributions and that these should be returned on Communion Sundays It is recorded that in the year 1892 special collections were taken up as follows

General Assembly	$ 2 00	Home Missions	$ 8 10
Manitoba College	$ 7 10	Presbytery Fund	$11 00
Augmentation Fund	$18 60	Synod	$ 3 00
		Total	$50 80

For many years now the term "Budget" had applied to the various aspects of General Assembly work

In 1886 the Medicine Hat Hospital was erected and in August was opened the dedication ceremony being performed by our minister Rev Mr Herald Members of the Hospital Board included several members of our Church Messrs McCuaig Finlay Cousins Tweed and Rev Mr Herald This Hospital was the only one west of Winnipeg for some years and rendered great service to the people of the Western Plains In 1890 Rev Angus Robertson the Missionary who had conducted the first Presbyterian service in Medicine Hat on June 3 1883 was brought to our Hospital very ill with fever He had spent the intervening years as a Missionary in lumber camps in British Columbia While at Donald B C he took ill and was rushed to Medicine Hat, where he died in August 1890

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FRAME CHURCH BUILDING

After the School vacated the church premises at the end of 1886 the Presbyterians must have heaved a sigh of relief and turned eagerly to the work of making permanent and worthwhile improvements to the interior of their building which had seen such hard usage for five years The Managers must have acquired pews because at their meeting on Jan 25 1889 they instructed Mr Sage to rent the chairs to the School for $2 00 per week for as long as needed At a

further meeting on Jan 31, they appointed a Committee of Messrs McCuaig, Tweed and Herald, with power to engage a contractor to move the church building further over on the lot, and to hire a carpenter and painter to do the necessary work. No further minutes were recorded for over a year, but the Session minutes of November 12, 1889 state that the Session agreed that after the church was re-opened, they meet in the church.

Proof that an addition was built at the back of the church is shown in a small picture of the church and the manse side by side, in which can be seen the addition with a Gothic window showing. Also, a vestibule was built on to the front, and there is a picture of the interior of the church which shows an archway with the depth of the addition giving a place for the choir and the pulpit.

In the fall of 1890 a cellar was dug under the church and a furnace was installed, so the Congregation must have enjoyed greater comfort from that time on, but it was not until 1897 that storm windows were purchased, at a cost of $40.00. The late Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne used to tell an amusing story about those windows. Shortly after her marriage, Mr. Morrow, the minister, came to call on a hot July day, and he was wearing his coonskin cap with the earflaps down. He commented that she was perhaps astonished to see his headgear, but explained that he had issued an ultimatum to the Managers that he was going to wear that cap until they removed the storm windows from the church for the summer!

Frame Church and Manse

Interior of Frame Church

Rev James Harald

Mrs James Herald

Jessie Herald
married John Ewart

TRIBUTE TO REV. MR. HERALD

The entire Congregation was saddened by the death of their Minister Rev Mr Herald from the flu on March 4 1890 He had come to Medicine Hat in November of 1885 with his wife and daughter Jessie During his pastorate of almost five years he had built St John's from a weak group of people into a strong Congregation The first Session was elected after he came and the Elders were instructed and guided in their duties by him Official records tell us that "He was just about to be inducted into the pastoral charge of Medicine Hat when he was removed by death"

The members and adherents erected a marble tablet, placing it in the Sanctuary in recognition of the faithful services of their beloved Pastor, as an affectionate tribute to his memory.

"ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THIS CHURCH
TO THE MEMORY OF
THE REV. JAMES HERALD
THEIR BELOVED PASTOR
WHO DIED MARCH 4 1890 AGED 66 YEARS
REVERED AND RESPECTED BY ALL
"BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD"".

As a further tribute to the esteem in which the Herald family was held, the Session at their meeting on May 12, 1890, passed a motion that the front pews on the right side of the church be reserved for the Herald family. Jessie, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Herald, married Mr. John Ewart, a man who was a great church worker, a member of the Board of Managers and an active business man in the community. In 1893 he took his family to California in search of a better climate for himself, but he died there of tuberculosis a short time later. Mrs. Ewart returned to Medicine Hat where she gave unstintingly of her many talents in the work of St. John's. She played the organ, taught Sunday School, acted as President of the Ladies' Aid for many years, and eventually became "Mistress of the Manse" when she married the Rev. James Morrow in 1913. She was one of the truly remarkable pioneers of St. John's, having arrived in Medicine Hat in December 1885. She lived to the good age of 92 years, always maintaining her interest and love for St. John's. She had raised her two children here. McLaren and Jacqueline, both of whom are still living here in 1973. McLaren is a retired Elder of the Presbyterian Church. Jacqueline married Mr. H. O. Duggan, and both she and her husband gave years of their time and musical ability as devoted members of St. John's choir.

REV. A. J. MACLEOD

St. John's was now left without a pastor, so steps had to be taken to call a minister. There is no record of the Session's course of action, but two items were obtained from the newspaper, "The Times," of Thursday, April 17, 1890. The first one states: "Rev. Mr. Morrison arrived yesterday on No. 1 and he will occupy the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church for the next two Sundays". Then the most important item noted, namely, "A call to Rev. Mr. MacLeod of Banff is being unanimously signed by the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church here". So Rev. Angus J. MacLeod, B.A., came in May 1890, and ministered to the Congregation until March 1891, when he resigned his charge to take the position of Principal of the Indian School at Regina. During his brief ministry the work in St.

John's received a new impetus

During Mr Herald's time and for part of Mr MacLeod's time the coal mines were in operation at Slan (north-west of Redcliff), so services were occasionally given at this point as well as at Dunmore seven miles east of here

Realizing that the Members of 1973 would like to know when and how the name St John's came to be used the Historical Committee made every effort to obtain this information The Session minute book records the name on Sept 10 1891 In copying a Presbytery report which states re St John's (Medicine Hat) The title was not used again until Aug 7 1894 The Board of Managers' minutes first used the name in recording the annual meeting of January 1893

Since none of this information answered our queries adequately we wrote to the Archivist of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who reported that the name St John's was first used in the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly for 1891 the statistics of which cover the previous year So we conclude that the name St John's Presbyterian Church Medicine Hat came into use in 1890 but how it was chosen is not known

A WELL ESTABLISHED CHURCH BY 1895

Rev. Charles Stephen

In the beginning of April 1891, Rev. Charles Stephen, B.A., B.D., came immediately on the departure of Mr. MacLeod for the purpose of giving supply for a short time, but after a period of six weeks, he was called to become the Minister. He was inducted and ordained on the first day of June 1891. This was the first ordination that had taken place in connection with any of the Congregations" states Mr. Stephen in his short history.

Our village was growing slowly, and the Congregation became a little stronger as the years went by. At the close of 1890 the membership stood at 50, but even so, the finances continued to be a problem. The minutes of June 29, 1890, state that the Managers voted to pay $5.00 for the "Record", which is the first mention of our church periodical, and again in August 1891 the Session purchased 10 extra copies of the Record for the Congregation at Dunmore. The readers today should realize that the pastorate at Dunmore required a good deal of time and endurance on the part of our Ministers, who had to have a horse at their disposal, to pull the rig or cutter up the steep hill on to the prairie, and to travel the seven miles to the village on prairie trails. Also, good warm buffalo robes must have been part of the needed equipment in those days in winter.

Many people are unaware of the fact, but St. John's is one of the very few congregations that have always served grape juice at the Communion service. No one knew where this custom originated, until the discovery was made in the minutes of Session dated Aug. 1, 1892, when it was recorded that "it the use of fermented wine would keep one Communicant away from the service, therefore it was agreed that a supply of unfermented wine (grape juice) be purchased". The custom has been observed for 90 years, until recently when the Session of 1971 decided to serve communion wine, but also include grape juice in the centre of each of the trays for use by the Congregation.

FORMATION OF THE LADIES' AID

The first mention of a "Ladies' Aid" was in October 1890, when it was stated that the Ladies' Aid gave $91.05 toward the cost of painting the Manse. Mr. Stephen, who ministered to the Congregation from 1891 to 1895, in his brief history, gave special mention to the great assistance of the Ladies' Aid "during the past 5 years." so apparently they were organized in the year 1890. Each year at the annual church meetings a glowing tribute was always paid to the ladies for the tremendous help given to the Congregation. Unfortunately, the financial burden assumed great proportions in these early years as evidenced in these details.

In September 1895 when Mr. Stephen left since ours was a Mission Church a representative of the Presbytery visited the Congregation to look into its finances. The debt then stood at $800.00 and handling the finances looked like a first-class juggling act. The Board owed a note to one member for $214.00 to a second for $264.00, and to a third for $120.00. The very next month, they borrowed another $120.00 from the second member to pay the third. And so it went.

ST. JOHN'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Although we are most fortunate in having the earliest minute books of both Session and Managers there is a great lack of concise information as the accounts of annual meetings list only the titles of reports given and none of the contents which would be so meaningful to the Historical Committee years later. However we do have one copy of a tiny pamphlet entitled "Operations of the Church and its Associations for 1893." Since this date completes exactly the first 10-year period of St. John's history and growth it is invaluable to all of us to see how much the Church had progressed during that time. The first two pages list the weekly givings of 45 members and adherents, these amounts ranging from a top of $1.00 (given by only three people) down to 5¢ per week contributed by seven. This latter group includes Thomas William, Nora and Melrose Hargreave children of Mr. and Mrs. James Hargrave, also Isabella Cousins daughter of the William Cousins family. The majority of adults gave 10¢ a week. The Treasurer's Report shows that they started the year with a debt of $1038.73. Total receipts were $1598.92 but the year ended with a debt of $802.72 including arrears owing to the minister of $256.93. The Sunday School had done well, spending about $70.00 on papers and replenishing their library. The Ladies' Aid took in $343.65 which included the proceeds of a "Melon Social" on Aug. 29 of $41.85. The expenditures list the cost of the melons at $5.00, and the freight on same at $7.00, but what a treat that must have been for everyone. The Ladies ended the year with a balance of 5¢ having given the Managers $315.35.

The number of families in the Congregation is listed at 42 there having been a gain of 5 and a loss of 5 21 members took the Record there had been 10 baptisms In the list of weekly activities we note that services were being held at Dunmore every Sunday afternoon Even though they still faced a large debt the members had contributed $89 35 for the Schemes of the Church thus exhibiting their concern for the Mission outreach of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1893

Minister	—	Rev Charles Stephen M A.
Rep Elder	—	Wm T Finlay J P
Session Clerk	—	Wm Cousins
Elders	—	W Coutts J Hargreve W T Finlay T Tweed M L A J Young
Managers	—	W T Finlay Chairman J. Hargreve Sec H Stewart Treas T. Tweed J F Fisher P Robertson
Organist	—	Miss Weitband
Caretaker	—	Mr J Norquay
Sabbath School	—	Superintendent — Mr W T Finlay
		Teachers — Miss Fleck Miss Porter Miss Weitband Miss M Mitchell Mr W T Finlay
Bible Class	—	Teacher — Rev Chas. Stephen
Ladies Aid	—	President — Mrs J H Spencer
		Vice-President — Mrs P Robertson
		Treasurer — Miss M Mitchell
		Secretary — Mrs John Ewen

Communion Service

BEGINNING OF REV. J. W. MORROW'S MINISTRY

Rev. J. W. Morrow

Following Rev. Mr. Stephen's departure in 1895 the Church was served for a few months by Rev. J. A. Jeffery, and then Rev. J. W. Morrow came in June 1896, and ministered to the Congregation for 22 years. He was a graduate of Dublin and Princeton Universities who had been engaged in missionary work near Calgary and Wetaskiwin. Mr. Morrow was one of the most colorful and unique persons to live in Medicine Hat. He was blunt, outspoken, careless in manners and dress, but he had a great understanding of human nature, and he drew large Congregations to hear him preach during the years that he occupied St. John's pulpit. He tried to hide his generosity, but it became a well-known fact that he was always giving to the poor of the community, and he did this in an unobtrusive way. Gladys McDougall Bennan tells a story about Mr. Morrow dropping in to call on her mother one day. A tea party was in progress, but he went in to join the ladies, wearing his big coonskin coat, which he hadn't bothered to remove. When he sat down to have tea, he gave a sudden exclamation, and the ladies discovered that he had half a dozen fresh eggs in his coat pocket. Planning to take them to a poor family, he had put them in his pocket, not wishing to be seen by the neighbors carrying a bag into the house. Mrs. McDougall was obliged to help clean out the coat pocket before he left.

Mr. Morrow had a wide acquaintance among the rural residents of the area as well as those in the city. He often visited neighboring ranches and if the men were busy working, he took off his coat to help with whatever was being done. He had a great interest in horses, including race horses, attending Stampedes and races that were held at such places as Walsh and Irvine in the early days.

The scope of the area which Mr. Morrow served during the first ten years of his ministry here, can easily be discerned in an

excerpt from a letter which he wrote to Rev. Hugh McKellar, author of *Presbyterian Pioneer Ministers*, in which he said: "I had charge of the whole district from Medicine Hat west as far as Gleichen and east as far as Swift Current, taking communion and baptisms everywhere except Maple Creek along until 1903."

One of the most important fields of work in any congregation is that among the young people. All early record books are missing but we have brief references to the existence of such groups in St. John's. Mr. Stephen reported "that the Christian Endeavour Society had been formed and that great things were expected of it in upholding the ministry of the Word, and in carrying on the practical work pertaining to the welfare of the Church." This group grew, enlarged and stimulated the spiritual life of our young people for a good many years. Three other groups were mentioned in the '90s:

1. A Young People's Mission Society organized in 1893
2. A "Wide-Awake Society" raised $115.00 in 1898
3. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society was formed.

By 1899, the Church was free of debt for the first time and became a self-supporting Congregation which indicates a strong, flourishing church group.

During all of these years, the Manse had stood over near the railroad bridge, so the members decided that it was time to move the building on to the church property. On Jan. 3, 1898, tenders were received for moving the Manse and that of Mr. Wm. Tom was accepted. In March, a foundation was put under the building and the interior was to be lathed and plastered. In August, 1898, Mr. J. C. Coller was paid $240.00 for the plastering, and Mr. H. C. Yuill $450.00 for the carpenter work. Mr. Morrow, who had been Minister of St. John's since 1896, was a bachelor. As he lived in rented rooms rather than in the Manse, it was rented out. After the big expense of remodelling, Mr. Morrow stated that he wanted all of the manse rent money, $15.00 per month, applied on the debt for repairs.

In the fall of 1898, a fence was built around the church property, and the fence and Manse were painted. — cost $143.17. So, it was 16 years before the Church members could look with any amount of pride at their property. However, they were no more than free of debt when they began talking about a new church building.

BUILDING THE BRICK CHURCH IN 1902

At the annual congregational meeting on March 2, 1900, a motion was made to establish a Building Fund. This was a courageous decision to be made by a group of only 79 members.

We seldom hear of the ladies taking part in meetings of the Church, but at the annual meeting on March 7, 1901, a motion was

made by Mrs Blatchford seconded by Mrs Ewart that the Managers take up the subscription for the purpose of building a new church" Motion carried

So we come to the time of building the present brick church There are no church records of architects plans or estimates and we can only conclude that the men were all too busy to write it all down We do know that a congregational meeting was held on July 3 1902 at which time the former Board of Trustees was dissolved and a new Board appointed for the purpose of holding the Church property for St John s Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat these being

Mr James Hargrave	Mr Wm Cousins
Mr T Tweed	Mr W T Finlay
Mr Robert Mitchell	Mr A DesBrisay

On August 25, they set the date for the opening of the new church for Sept 21, 1902

We are indebted to the weekly edition of the Medicine Hat News of Sept 25 1902 for an excellent account of the great occasion which took place on Sunday Sept 21 1902, when all members of St. John s attended the opening of their beautiful new church A detailed description of the building which is so familiar to us 70 years later is seen through the eyes of a reporter as follows

"The building is 84 feet long and approximately 42 feet wide constructed of Medicine Hat sandstone and red brick the stone walls being 24" thick and the brick walls 18" thick. The front entrance has stairs leading up on each side to the Sanctuary end balcony The pews are made of ash wood and the pew ends of solid oak, there being seating accommodation for 450 people At the north end there is a vestry at one side and a choir room at the other, each with a set of outside stairs The basement ceiling is 12 high, and the Sanctuary 26 and arched The windows are of cathedral glass and leaded There is a tower 72 high at the southwest corner.

The stone brick and plastering were done by Charles Purmal carpentry finishing and painting by Wallon and McInnes the two furnaces by Williamson & Ree and the piano was prepared by Mr Lang

The Building Committee was composed of Messrs Tweed Hargrave Milne Cousins Mitchell and DesBrisay The furnishings were provided by the Ladies Aid, and the church and furnishings will cost about $15 000 00"

The first service was held at 11 a m on September 21, 1902 with our own minister Mr Morrow assisted by Dr Kilpatrick of Winnipeg Rev Mr Herdman of Calgary and Rev Mr McKillop of Lethbridge The opening hymn gave all of the members an opportunity to join in expressing their collective sentiments, in the words —

"Within these walls may Peace abonnd
May all our hearts in one agree
Where brethren meet where Christ is found
May Peace and concord ever be"

Dr Kilpatrick performed the Dedication Ceramony and then preached a sermon of great encouragement and instruction to the Congregation At three o'clock Mr Herdman and Mr McKillop spoke and in the evening the church was crowded to the doors to hear a further message from Dr Kilpatrick On Monday evening the Ladies Aid served tea in the basement, which was crowded for two hours then all adjourned to the Sanctuary for a service addressed by Dr Kilpatrick Mr Morrow and the Baptist minister Mr. Croft

The Brick Church 1902

Our history is surely enriched by this full account of our church We would like to point out that in 1901 after Mrs. Blatchford and Mrs Ewart made the motion to take up subscriptions for a new church The givings must have been bountiful because the value of the new church is placed at $15 000 00 and yet the debt listed at the end of 1902 was only $5 000 00

The old frame church building was sold to the Medicine Hat School District for $150.00 and was moved down to Montreal Street School grounds where it was used as a cottage school for a long time. So the building erected by the Presbyterians in 1884, and used by the School District for five years was again occupied by Medicine Hat pupils after 1902.

We were impressed by the statement in the newspaper that the "furnishings" in the new church were supplied by the Ladies' Aid. This must have required a concentrated effort on the part of all of the ladies to raise such an amount of money. The only record we have of any of their projects is one reported in the News on Thursday, Aug. 7, 1902, a few weeks before the opening of the new building. "The Ice Cream Social held Thursday evening in the Skating Rink by the Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church was well attended and successful, $94.00 being realized. The Ladies' Aid desire to thank the St. Barnabas Managers for loan of chairs, Rink Co. for loan of Rink, the Citizens' Band for musical program, and Watson & Hill for draying chairs."

We can well imagine the happiness and enthusiasm of all of our Presbyterian members as they expanded their activities in the spacious new quarters of the brick church. In a young western community the accommodation was considered very up-to-date and entirely suitable to their needs. The community was growing quickly as evidenced by the fact that Medicine Hat was incorporated as a town in 1900 with a population of 1,570, during Mr. Finlay's term as Mayor, while in 1906 it achieved the status of a city with a population of 3,020. The increase in population was quickly reflected in the membership statistics of St. John's during that period, as follows:

1901	88 Members
1903	134 Members
1909	229 Members

After the new building was completed, the Managers probably thought that they could relax for a few years, but found that the changes rapidly taking place in the town meant adapting to a new situation. Medicine Hat suddenly discovered the potential that lay in the great gas fields under the city, so the Councilmen proceeded to develop this natural resource that had lain untapped until 1902. The coal burning furnaces in the new church were converted to gas, and in May 1905 the Board members met at a special meeting when they decided "to light the church with gas as soon as possible, the secretary to write and get catalogues of articles required for lighting." In November they gave Mr. Walton permission to cut a hole in the ceiling above the balcony "to allow the pulling in of gas pipes for the lights."

Vandalism is not a problem confined to the present generation.

as it is noted that in 1905 some of the basement windows along the Fifth Avenue side of the church had been broken. The Board decided that the only solution to this problem would be to replace the glass than cover it with heavy wire screening. So both items were ordered from Winnipeg and the windows have been protected ever since.

SYNOD AFFILIATION

Increased population effected not only our town but the entire country as well but Alberta did not become a province until 1905. We find that our church government reflected the provincial structure. St. John's had become a part of Calgary Presbytery when it was formed in 1897 then in 1900 that Presbytery was transferred from the Synod of Manitoba and included in the Synod of British Columbia. It was not until 1906 that the Synod of Alberta was formed being made up of:

Calgary Presbytery	(1887)
Edmonton Presbytery	(1895)
Macleod Presbytery	(1904)

St. John's remained in Calgary Presbytery until 1914 when the Medicine Hat Presbytery was organized. There have been several changes since then, but finally in 1966 Macleod and Calgary united to form the Calgary-Macleod Presbytery.

CROSSING THE RIVER

Members of our church today give no thought to the problems of those who lived on the north side of the river years ago. From the time that people came to live in Medicine Hat the difficulty of crossing the Saskatchewan river was time-consuming and sometimes awkward. When the C.P.R. built the pile bridge many people settled in the village so it immediately became necessary to obtain a ferry for travellers, teams and equipment to be transported from one shore to the other. The landing dock for the ferry was immediately west of the present library with the Macleod trail leading directly down to that spot on the river bank. So for 24 years the ferry plied back and forth as long as the river was free of ice.

In those days when winter arrived the river froze solid and citizens travelled safely across wherever they chose. But there was always a short period of time when the ice was forming that the ferry could not run, nor was it safe for people to venture across.

Children of every generation are always ready to take alarming risks and the youngsters of 1900 were no exception. Mr. Carl Hergrave relates a story about crossing the river one November day that makes the reader shudder at the thought of what might have happened. Carl remembers vividly the time when he and his brothers

and sisters decided to go over to town. In spite of the fact that the ferry was tied up because the ice was forming on the river. The children trooped down to the shore and viewed the situation. Jack picked up several good sized stones and carrying them he started gingerly out on to the ice. The other children straggling behind. He would toss a stone forward and when the ice held they all walked in that direction. Another stone would be tossed, — if the ice cracked they tried a different angle. In that manner gradually proceeding across the river. Mr. and Mrs. Hargreave were at home blissfully unaware of the precarious expedition on which their children were embarked.

It must have been a wonderful occasion for parents as well as all residents of Medicine Hat when the traffic bridge was opened in 1907, and people were free to cross the river at any time or season. The bridge was named for Mr. W. T. Finley who was the first Representative for the Medicine Hat Riding at Edmonton in 1905 and also the first Minister of Agriculture. He was one of the organizers of St. John's Congregation in 1883, and one of the first Elders of our Church in 1886.

We are happy to report that every one of the Hargrave children who crossed the ice that day lived a good long life span, Carl being with us in 1973 to reminisce with his contemporary McLaren Ewart and other members of the Historical Committee.

KNOX AND RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

It is not surprising that a second Presbyterian Church soon made its appearance. The early history of Knox Presbyterian Church states that a "Mission" was started by Rev. Mr. McLaren in 1904 and named the "East End Presbyterian Mission" with services held in the homes of E. D. Bentley and J. McNeely. It was not until November of 1906 that Rev. Mr. Herdman, secretary of Presbytery from Calgary, visited our Session to discuss the possibility of starting a new Congregation in the south east district. Our Session was quite opposed to this, but appointed Mr. Cousins to attend Presbytery meeting in Calgary to present our views. The Presbytery concurred with us in the matter, however the people in the east area of town felt that there was a need for a church there. So they proceeded to secure an old building on Allowance Avenue, which they used, naming it the Knox Presbyterian Church. Mr. McLaren and Mr. Hanch served that Congregation for several years, and by 1912 the membership of the Sunday School numbered 310 pupils, requiring three relays to accommodate all of the children. We must remember that those were not the days of paved streets and cement sidewalks or of two cars to a garage. Every person walked wherever he went, so the little Knox Church rendered a greatly needed service to the area which it served. A few children of St. John's members attended the Sunday

School there Sam and Ben Goldie Ray John and Fred Foulston Meregal Lou and Jean Bain Anne Lyle and Margaret Wyall Isabel Patterson Mogridge and Kathy Begg McKay

Another little Sunday School was started over on Riverside this one being held in a cottage school on the Riverside School property This was a community effort as Riverside was almost a separate little village in those days and it was a long walk for toddlers and pre-schoolers to walk over the bridge to the Churches located in the heart of town So members of all denominations joined together to operate a Sunday School for the children of the district Some of the children of St John's families residing on Riverside attended that Sunday School at least until they were older Mrs Ernest King and Mrs Cave Sterling taught there for a good many years So our Church was greatly indebted to two other groups for the Sunday School education of some of our children for a good many years Line Conner Flaig has vivid memories of the activities in this little Sunday School

The responsibilities assumed by the early Boards of Managers will sound familiar to every group of men who have faced similar problems through the years — the lower roof leaked and had to be repaired; the organist wanted an increase in salary the caretaker was doing a poor job of looking after the building the budget assessment became bigger and bigger each year The number of men serving on the Board was not increased for 23 years until in March 1907 the Congregation voted to elect ten members to office specifying that three of these should represent the people living north of the railway track

THE TRANSITION YEARS

REAL ESTATE BOOM

Shortly after Medicine Hat became a city a real estate boom hit all of western Canada and its magnitude can scarcely be believed. Here in Medicine Hat lots were surveyed and staked out as far as Redcliff. Property changed hands daily while prices skyrocketed. Miss Grace Cousins tells us that her father was paid $100,000.00 for the land now occupied by the MacLeod store on Third Street and Fifth Avenue but like all other speculators he invested the money in other real estate. Hence, when the boom suddenly collapsed at the beginning of World War I he along with others suffered the same fate, and lost riches that had seemed so real on paper. In the light of the preceding information we can scarcely condemn our sedate and practical Ladies Aid when they succumbed to the lure of get-rich-quick aspirations and bought two lots at 65 and 75 Second Street S.E. for $1800.00 in 1911, hoping to make a huge profit. They paid $1200.00 down and borrowed the balance at 9% interest. The property was deeded to Mrs. Ewart, Mrs. J. A. Cameron, Mrs. Howson and Mrs. Nicholson. The deed being left with Mr. Stewart at the Glasgow House.

When the Managers began to plan to build a new Manse in 1913, they asked the Ladies to give the lots for the location of the Manse but they refused, saying that "They wanted a nice brick house built on the Esplanade" (First Street). The Aid continued to hold their property until 1925, when they voted to discontinue payment of any more taxes, and the land reverted to the City. In recent years two small apartment blocks were erected on the lots. A tax notice from the City for 1920 has been kept all these years, and is evidence of a bright dream — that faded.

CONTROVERSY IN THE CHURCH

In 1913 we regret to report that trouble arose among the church members over an unknown issue. There are vague references to something that took place at the annual meeting early in 1913 but those minutes are not recorded in the book. However, arguments at Board and Session meetings became so acrimonious that both Presbytery and Synod of Alberta became involved in trying to settle the matter. By the end of 1913 some members of the Session and Board had withdrawn from our Church, many members followed them, and they proceeded to band together and form a new Congregation up on the hill, naming it Westminster Presbyterian Church.

A Church quarrel is a bitter thing and this was no exception, for it was a long time before many of the people involved even spoke to each other again

Although 51 of our members transferred to Westminster Church in 1913 we had an extremely large increase in new members. — 62 by Profession of Faith and 75 by Certificate At the March Communion service alone we received 97 new members which is a record that has stood for the entire history of St. John's and no doubt reflects the tremendous influx of new residents to the city So 1913 ended the first thirty years of the history of our Congregation during which we had grown from a handful of 12 Members in 1883 to 315 in 1913. Our shabby frame building had been replaced by a suitable edifice and the citizens of the town were riding on the crest of prosperity created by the land boom It is with sincere regret that we have recorded truthfully the fact that strife had arisen and caused such a division in the membership It must be that members had forgotten their dedication hymn — Within these walls may Peace abound

ACTIVITIES DURING MR. MORROW'S LATER YEARS IN ST JOHN'S

If we preview the second thirty-year period of our history quickly we will note the upheavals and sorrows that faced our congregation The First World War - anxiety and sorrow for our members Church Union voting in 1925 - bitter debates and hard decisions The Great Depression - which had to be endured to be believed The Second World War, - more sadness for all Six changes in the Ministers serving St John's pulpit

It must be that adversity promotes strength for we emerged a strong congregation in 1943 Our Country was still involved in a War which was going badly and we faced the loss of many of our young people However in January 1914 all of this was veiled in the future and our Board of Managers went quickly ahead with plans for a new Manse Mr. Morrow had served the Congregation since 1896 and he had become a well known and beloved Pastor in the south-east part of Alberta His home had been a rented room for years since he was a bachelor but in 1913 that was changed when he and Mrs Jessie Herald Ewert were married Gifts for this well-known couple became the order of the day so the Ladies' Aid presented them with a couch while the Managers gave the chairs The location of the new Manse was causing some controversy and upon presentation of the furniture Mr Morrow suggested that the Manse would have to be built around the couch

Brick Manse 1914

BUILDING THE BRICK MANSE

The next year, our congregation provided a suitable Manse for their minister and family when they built the brick home at 258 First Street S.E. a four-bedroom house with a study on the main floor for the Minister. The Ladies' Aid, being pleased with the location and plan, donated $1,000.00 toward the cost of the lighting and heating. Fireplaces in both the parlour and the study added comfort to the home, and a large verandah was built across the front which some years later was completely glassed in. In May 1916 tenders were called for the sale of the old Manse building, which had been purchased from the Gait Coal Company in 1885. An offer of $250.00 was received, so it was sold and moved away from the location beside the church where it had stood since 1888. In September, the Managers got a rebate on the insurance policy for the building, this notation being the only proof that the offer was accepted.

During Mr. Morrow's pastorate in St. John's, the membership had grown from 53 in 1896 to a peak of 315 in 1913. The Elders who had worked side by side with him to guide the Congregation included original Session members elected in 1886: Messrs. Cousins, Finlay, Hargrave and Tweed. In 1891 Mr. Young was added; in 1907 Mr. David Milne, Mr. W. R. Hay and Mr. Robert Mitchell; then in 1909 Mr. James Wilson and Mr. Charles Pratt. These eleven formed the Session until 1913, when 137 new communicants were received into St. John's. This greatly increased the work of these men as there were several vacancies to be filled. The new members were:

Mr. John T. Bell	Mr. H. O. Duggan	Dr. W. H. McDonald
Mr. P. Robertson	Mr. Wm. Rutherford	Mr. Henry Stewart
		Mr. R. C. Fortel

THE CHURCH AND WORLD WAR I

The First World War broke out on August 4, 1914, and most Canadians became involved in War Work, Liberty Bond drives, Red Cross supply work, knitting, and the continual comforting of the anxious and the bereaved. Mr. Morrow was extremely popular with the boys in uniform, preaching to large numbers of them who attended our Church. In May 1915 he requested the Ladies' Aid to put on a dinner for the soldiers, and they eagerly made plans to carry this out. In February 1916 Mrs. F. O. Sissons, wife of Lt.-Col. Sissons, presented a Canadian flag to the Church, to be hung in the Sanctuary for the duration of the War. Our Communion record covering the period of the War lists the names of young men who attended some of our services before going Overseas, many with notations of their Army units. They were not enrolled as members of St. John's, but we know that they were drawn to our Church while in Medicine Hat. Mr. Morrow's sermons so impressed his listeners that members today remember some of them which he preached when they were children.

Two Regiments were recruited in Medicine Hat during the First World War and great interest was shown to all of the men by Mr Morrow, who obtained suitable Honor Rolls to which each Presbyterian soldier affixed his own signature. Lt.-Col F O Simsons was Commander of the 3rd C.M.R.s with 168 St John's men joining up, while Lt Col Nelson Spencer was the Commander of the 175th Battalion in which 124 of our men became recruits. Also many more joined other regiments.

During this period of our church history a business-like procedure was instituted in January 1917 by perceptive members of the Congregation to comply with existing laws governing church property. Accordingly St John's Presbyterian Church was incorporated as a Religious Society on Dec 31 1917. The meeting of the Congregation had taken place on January 17 1917 at a gathering attended by many members of St John's whose names appear on the photo-copy which hangs in the entrance of the church. The chairman of the meeting was Rev J W Morrow and the secretary was Thos H Rand. The legal work and registration steps were taken by a well known lawyer in the earlier days of Medicine Hat Gilbert W Blackstock.

The Charter calls for thirty members to make up a quorum of the Congregation and provides that the control of the property shall be in the hands of the Managers together with the Secretary and the Minister.

Since the War had drawn many of our members into the Armed Forces the Congregation was not as large by 1918 but the outlook and attitudes of those who remained had changed greatly from pioneer days. It became apparent that the members were dissatisfied with the ministry of St John's so the Minister resigned leaving the pulpit in June 1918 after 22 years of service. Many of our older members were deeply hurt over the acceptance of Mr Morrow's resignation and five of the Session members withdrew from their offices for a time.

After his resignation in 1918 Mr Morrow continued to reside in Medicine Hat and in 1925 entered the United Church of Canada. From 1927 to 1930 he ministered to United Church Congregations at Walsh and Dunmore. He died on February 4 1932.

REV. THOMAS WILSON'S MINISTRY

Rev. Thomas Wilson

In October 1918 Rev Thomas Wilson became the next Pastor of St John's and we can appreciate the difficulties he encountered in trying to heal the wounds caused by conflicting sentiments within the Congregation The Flu Epidemic was raging and the number of deaths in the community saddened and appalled the people everywhere. The new Minister was immediately drawn into many family circles where death struck so suddenly The War finally ended with the Armistice on November 11 1918 and peace-time activities were resumed Men returned home to their families and once more the membership of the Congregation was built up One of the first matters of business which Mr Wilson faced was an election of new Elders since the Session had been reduced in numbers At the annual meeting in January 1919 the names of eight men were nominated and later five of these were elected to office. These being:

Henry Stewart (re-elected) J. W. Hamilton James Mitchell
Tom McFeddan Wm Crawford

During his time in St John's, Mr Wilson saw the Congregation grow to 430 members. Minutes of the Board of Managers and Ladies Aid are the only source of historical data The main items of interest are gleaned from the accounts of annual church meetings In which the names of organizations are mentioned but none of the officers or activities. However we realize from the number of groups listed, that the brick church was alive with activity One new group formed was the Young Women's Club which was started by Mrs James Mitchell and Mrs Tom Murray in January 1920 The purpose of this group was partly social but their chief responsibility was to raise money to put flowers in the church every Sunday and they also found other ways in which to be helpful In 1923 they paid the cost of planting a lawn and flowers at the church end of erecting a fence across the vacant lot on the east side of the property This group flourished for about 20 years, — when the young ladies retired from the scene, and new groups were formed

Between the years 1916 and 1925 the following organizations are mentioned in annual meeting reports

1918 Boys' Club - interests - hockey, baseball, belonged to Provincial Organization
1918 Girls' Club - doing patriotic work
1920 Mission Band
1922 C.G.I.T. - organized by Miss Farr
1923 Tuxis Boys - report given by Willie Wray and Gavin Begg
1923 Trail Rangers - report given by Nicol McIntosh and Jack Anderson
1924 Plan to start a Men's Club

THE PIPE ORGAN AND THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHOIR

In 1913 St. John's achieved a dream of many years when a Casavant organ was installed in the Sanctuary. This stimulated great interest in the Choir which reached a peak of accomplishments in the 1920's never realized since. In 1924 '25 and '26 the St. John's Choir entered the annual Provincial Festival in Edmonton competing in the class for 21 voices or less. The Choir had to raise $650.00 for their expenses to travel by train to Edmonton each year and in 1924 under the leadership of Mr. Fossum they won the "Short Shield". In 1925 they won it again under the beton of Mr. Robert Bullen but when they entered in 1926 they lost out by only one-half point. If they had won it the third time they would have been permitted to keep the Shield. A picture of the full Choir is shown in this book.

We know that Mr. Wilson must have been very deeply involved in all of the discussions both with groups and families over the subject of Church Union, which was facing all Presbyterians at this time since he was named Honorary President of the Committee organized on Dec. 19, 1924 to sponsor the "Continuing Presbyterian Church". In 1926 shortly after these matters were settled he resigned to move to a church in Vancouver. A very full account of the farewell party for Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, arranged by the Men's Club is reproduced later in this chapter.

CHURCH UNION

The words "Church Union" hold little meaning to Presbyterian Church members in 1973 but a slight understanding of the term should be acquired in order that we may appreciate our heritage and understand the headaches and bitterness which were caused by the union between the entire Methodist and Congregational church organizations and those Presbyterian Congregations that voted on the matter and decided whether or not to enter Union.

The subject of Union was discussed for almost twenty years

Davis Thomson Mr Jackman Fred Jackie H A Roach John Hill Robert Calder
Ruby Cerle Winnie Mellor Margot Dryburgh Mrs Fossum Mrs Fidler Mrs Mitchell Mrs Jackman Mrs McArthur
Miles Smith Miss H Westlake, Nellie Morrison Mr Fossum, Miss J Lauder Miss Nan Thomson, Miss Sinclair

1924 ST JOHN'S CHOIR

end then came to a head, when at the request of the Church Courts, the Parliament of Canada passed legislation in 1924 pertaining to the legal aspects of property, assets and bequests. To complicate matters, each Province had laws covering church property rights, and all of these had to be understood.

The Historical Committee is indebted to the late Mr. A. C. Hewthorne for a minute book which he compiled as Secretary of the Committee that was appointed in our church in 1924 to call meetings, obtain speakers pro and con, and arrange for the necessary voting on Church Union. They were fortunate in having two able lawyers who were members of St. John's, namely Mr. Gilbert Blackstock and Mr. W. A. Begg, who expounded many of the complicated details connected with such a step. One fact stands out clearly to the reader, and that is that all Presbyterian Congregations were obliged to take a vote among their members as to whether or not they would join Union, otherwise their property automatically came into the possession of the new United Church of Canada.

At a meeting of our members on December 7, 1924, the following committee was appointed for the preservation and continuation of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat:

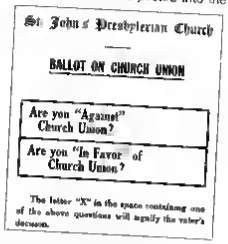
Rev. Mr. Thos. Wilson	Mr. A. C. Hewthorne
Mr. Jas. Hargrave	Mrs. A. C. Hewthorne
Mr. F. H. Spinule	Dr. J. C. Hargrave
Mr. J. A. Bell	Mr. Henry Stewert
Mr. J. A. Cameron	Mrs. A. McDougall
Mrs. J. E. Nicholson	

At the next meeting the names of Mr. Begg and Mr. Bleckstock were added. The urgency of the matter is seen in the fact that committee meetings were recorded on Dec. 7, 8, 17, 22, and a congregational meeting on December 26th, at which time very precise and legal procedures were agreed upon:

1. Session must provide a list of qualified members.
2. A ballot box was to be obtained from the City.
3. Returning Officer was appointed — Mr. J. A. Bell.
   Two Deputies were appointed — Mr. Henry Stewert and Mr. Wm. Cousins.
4. Scrutineers of both pro and anti-Unionists were appointed.
5. *Daily* polling times were set for a two week period — between Dec. 27, 1924 to Jan. 14, 1925.
6. Each day after poll closed, the sealed ballot box and the voters lists were to be deposited at the Bank of Montreal.
7. Ballots were to be counted at close of poll on January 14, and the voters list, ballot box, and record list were to be placed in the bank for safe keeping.

The need to safeguard every step of the procedure is seen, when we realize that ownership of the church and Manse property of St.

John's depended on the outcome of that ballot. The letter stating the result of the ballot is pasted into the minute book, and shows:



St. John's Presbyterian Church

BALLOT ON CHURCH UNION

Are you "Against" Church Union?

Are you "In Favor" of Church Union?

The letter "X" in the space containing one of the above questions will signify the voter's decision.

231 VOTES AGAINST UNION
83 Votes for Union
1 spoiled ballot

A vote of thanks to the Returning Officers and Committee was extended by Mr. E. G. Ellerton "for the able manner in which the poll had been conducted and the harmonious manner in which the campaign had been conducted generally." This was a gracious gesture on the part of Mr. Ellerton as he was apparently on the side of Church Union. At the next meeting of the Board of Managers Mr. R. E. Keating, Dr. T. F. MacDonald, Mr. E. G. Ellerton, and Mr. R. C. Black resigned from being members of the Board also. Mr. Baillie the Clerk of Session withdrew from our Church. These resignations were received, and after some discussion were accepted but not to become effective until June 10, 1925, the date on which Church Union would come into force. And so St. John's lost some valued and faithful members but kept their Church!

Ours was the only Presbyterian Congregation left in Medicine Hat after the voting took place as Westminster Church voted for Union. Knox Congregation did the same, and immediately planned to amalgamate with the Washington Avenue Methodist Church taking the name of "Memorial United Church." Both our minister and our members found themselves standing almost alone as the Medicine Hat Presbytery was also wiped out. Since its formation in 1914, it had grown to include twenty four churches and preaching points, these being: St. John's, Knox, Westminster, Redcliff, Seven Persons, Bassano, Bowell, Cypress Hills, Dunmore, Winnifred, Whitla, Orion, Manybernes, Glessford, Thompson, Ranchville, Wisdom and seven or eight other small points.

After June 10, 1925 only St. John's and Bassano Congregations remained, and they were taken into the Calgary Presbytery. Prior to Church Union there were close to 1,000 Presbyterian children in the

four churches of Medicine Hat and Redcliff (Knox 280 St. John's 268 Westminster 235, and Redcliff 130) So we can appreciate from these facts alone the staggering blow that almost obliterated Presbyterianism in western Canada. In Ontario the loss was not so great and from 1925 onward the continuing Presbyterian Churches in Ontario have formed the bulwark of strength for the Congregations scattered throughout the West

Forty of our members withdrew their certificates but a few continuing Presbyterians came from other Congregations Recognizing the fact that fresh representation should appear on the Board of Managers and the Session a meeting of the Board on Sept 8 1925 took unusual action A motion was made that all members of the present Board resign and that a new Board be elected at a congregational meeting to be called for September 22. This apparently was done and several men were also nominated for the Session Election results are not recorded until the report of the Annual Meeting in January which shows that the following were elected as Elders

Mr F Ferguson	Mr W Milton	Mr John Hill	Mr E A. Bell
Mr Jas Clelland	Mr A. W Ball	Mr D Martin	

The new Board of Managers was made up of

Dr J C Hargrave	Mr J McPhail	Mr F Jeake
Mr T Murray	Mr Roy Cunliffe	Mr R Aikenhead
Mr J E. Davies	Mr F H Spreule	Mr H H McKain
Mr A Andersen	Mr V Parrish	

When the Board met Mr J E Davies was elected Chairman of the Board and Mr J A Bell was appointed as Secretary So the problems of Church Union were resolved in St Johns, and faithful workers carried on the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat

Seventy new members were received by Profession of Faith and thirty by certificate in 1925 so we ended the year with a membership of 427 By this token we can see that Church Union did not deplete our numbers In fact it must surely have strengthened the loyalty and convictions of all members as they pondered the values involved in casting their ballots on the subject of Church Union

Item From MEDICINE HAT NEWS —Jan 26, 1928

REV. T. WILSON IS PRESENTED WITH ADDRESS

ACCOMPANIED BY A BEAUTIFUL SILVER TEA SERVICE BY ST JOHN'S CONGREGATION

The regular meeting of St. John's Men's Club was held in the church parlors on Tuesday Jan 26th 1928 when over 150 members of the congregation gathered together for the purpose of spending a social hour with Mr and Mrs. Wilson who are leaving next week for Vancouver where Mr Wilson assumes the pastorate of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian church The their was taken at 6.30 o'clock by the vice-president J. E. Davies who in his opening remarks, explained that his presence in that position was due to the removal of the president Mr A H Burpee who has recently been promoted from Medicine Hat to an important position on the C P R at Cranbrook Mr Davies therefore asked that a new president be elected and F H Sprenle was chosen by anniamation

Then followed a program of song and speech of a very high order. Interspersed with community singing under the direction of J S. Jones. The toast list innluded "The Ladies, St John's Congregation and the Continuing Presbyterian Church" the latter being proposed by H H McRae and responded to by G M Blackstock All the toasts were very capably handled but special mention must be made of Mr Blackstocks excellent response which dealt with Presbyterianism in its earliest inception its life right down through the ages until today. its victorious emergence from the recent world conflict and its future glory and greatness

The last toast on the list was proposed by F H Sprenle It was entitled Our Departing Guests — the speaker saying that we would need the eloquence of Lloyd George in order to do the subject justice. He dwelt briefly on the work and influence of Mr and Mrs Wilson in the church and in the whole community

Following this J A Bell brought in a beautiful tea service as a tangible token of the congregation's esteem and goodwill Mr Wilson deeply touched tried to reply but his emotions overcame him and he only managed to utter a few words of thanks and sat down.

The meeting closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne the entire company thereafter taking the opportunity to shake hands with the minister and Mrs. Wilson and speak a few words of God Speed

The soloists of the evening were Mrs Blenkstenk Mrs. Laidlaw and Miss A Sprenle—all of their numbers being rendered in excellent style Those participating in the toasts were Messrs. Davies Hill McBain Blackstock E A Bell and Dr Hargreve Mrs. Harry Tweed accompanying on the piano left nothing to be desired

OUR CONTINUING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas McConnell

St John's Church having elected a strong Board of Managers and several new members to our Session was now faced with the immediate problem of calling a minister, because of Mr. Wilson's resignation. At the annual meeting on January 20, 1926 the members voted to extend a call to Rev. Thomas McConnell, B.A. of Ireland and formerly a pastor in Victoria and Oakland, California. Mr. McConnell returned to Canada in 1924, to travel across the country as Dominion Organizer for the Committee promoting the idea of "A Continuing Presbyterian Church". In this capacity, he had preached in the pulpit of St. John's on Dec. 7, 1924 at the evening service and had spoken at a meeting of the Congregation directly after the close of the church service when our members organized for the same purpose.

Rev. Mr. McConnell started his ministry on February 10, 1926 occupying the pulpit until November 1927. This was a difficult period of adjustment, after a year or two of arguments and broken friendships so interest seemed to lag for a while. However, when the annual meeting time came around in January 1927, it was found that the Church was free of debt for the second time only in its 44-year history. Rev. Mr. McConnell made a suggestion that was carried out for years, namely, that the Congregation should appoint the Chairman of the Board as Chairman of the annual meeting. This was immediately endorsed and Mr. J. E. Davies took the chair and conducted the meeting. The report of the Session was given by Mr. James Clelland, covering the disturbing period of uncertainty over Church Union, and it was stated that his was one of the most complete reports ever presented to a meeting. George Sept gave the report for the Men's Club and new names appeared at the election of members for the Managing Board. — Chief J. M. Taylor, Mr. A. C. Hawthorne and Mr. E. Niemen. Dr. J. C. Hargreave was named the new Chairman of the Board.

At the Minister's suggestion, a Visitor's Register was purchased and a desk built on which to place it in the vestibule. In the spring of 1927, a brick garage was built at the Manse at a cost of $370.00. later a piano was purchased, with assistance from the Choir and the Ladies' Aid.

Membership in the Sunday School stood at 217, and the accommodation in the basement was completely inadequate, so in May 1927, the Ladies' Aid sent a delegation of nine members to discuss with the Board, the possibility of erecting a new hall and also

of remodelling the church kitchen. A joint committee was set up, but it made very slow progress with regard to the hall.

In the summer, the Joint Committee proceeded with alterations to the church basement. When the furnace was moved in the kitchen it was found to be beyond repair, so a new one had to be installed. Mr. Mort Fulton had charge of the building of cupboards, and other alterations. The total cost of the furnace and other work was paid by the Ladies' Aid, the expense amounting to $570.00.

In November 1927, the Joint Committee had presented an estimate to the Board for an extension to the basement, with a cement floor, no plastering, a roof, and an archway put through to the main basement, cost being $2,625.00. Occasional references were made to the plan later, but with the more urgent matter of choosing a new minister, all other things were laid aside. When the Depression struck the country, any thoughts of expansion were abandoned, and our Congregation had to wait for 25 years before the dream of a new hall became a reality.

Rev. Mr. McConnell left our Congregation in November 1927, and again the members were faced with the task of calling a minister.

REV. M. STEWART BLACKBURN

Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn

Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn and his family came to Medicine Hat on March 14, 1928, and he served St. John's faithfully for ten years. There is a complete lack of written information about his ministry here, but members who worked and associated with him all speak of the wonderful sympathy and understanding which he showed in all branches of a pastor's duties. Both he and Mrs. Blackburn endeared themselves to all of the Congregation, and to his fellow-workers in ministerial associations. Mrs. Bleckburn often used her talents as a musician, and she was also a valued member of the Women's Missionary Society, and in the Choir.

During the early 1930's Mr. Blackburn encountered the problem of having a group of young boys who felt they were too old to attend Sunday School, and were at the same time too young to participate in the adult activities of the Church.

Mr Jack Porter employed at that time by the Department of Agriculture solved the problem for Mr Blackburn by forming a Senior Sunday School class and a Young Men's Club. This Club met Sundays during church service for religious instruction and again on Tuesday nights for other activities. A punching bag, parallel bars, a tumbling horse and mats were acquired from somewhere and Tuesday night became a big event for the boys.

Mr. Porter had at one time in his youth been a professional boxer and was extremely adept at physical fitness activities and of course particularly boxing. It is interesting to note that a prize of Five Dollars was offered to the boys by Mr. Porter for any member of the Club who, with boxing gloves on, could manage to hit Mr. Porter on the nose. None of the boys was ever able to collect this money though it was tried many times.

However, before the term was up, and to the surprise of everyone, Mr. Blackburn donned the gloves one evening and it was not long until he managed to achieve what the other young men were unable to do. He did not however take the money because he said that he too had had professional training as a boxer during his university years. The Minister's stature from that day on was certainly increased as far as the members of the Club were concerned.

The boys' activities included many hikes and picnics during the summer and sleigh riding parties during the winter.

The entire country was held in the grip of the Depression from 1930 - 1938 and the Medicine Hat district was especially affected, being the centre of one of the driest areas on the Prairies. Dust storms and drought brought heartbreak and poverty year after year and much relief work had to be done by every church organization. The population of the town remained static for a period of ten years. St. John's continued doing its best with small incomes, no extra activities being attempted in any way. Although the church membership stood at 424 in 1926 the givings of the members seemed unusually small, so when the stock market crashed in 1929, our Board had great problems. These were indicated to the Ladies' Aid who came to the rescue by giving the Treasurer of the Board "all the cash on hand". So he was paid $400.00 and the ladies ended the year with a balance of $6.23. From 1931 to 1955 the Ladies' Aid gave a yearly cheque towards the Budget.

Another indication of the drastic situation of the economy throughout the country and the Church was the fact that Mr. Blackburn's stipend was reduced from $2,500.00 per year to $2,250.00 for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934. In many rural areas, teachers were working for about $40.00 per month.

In spite of this situation the Ladies' Aid became determined

Top row left to right Cyril Whale Cleave Diehl Gordon Bell Bert Simmons John Kocolyn Fred Jacka Val Marshall Eric Nilsson Second row left to right Herb Luck ng ? Albert Hartley Jim Hamilton Cecil Benfield Jack Russell Fred Trudeau Bill Sharley Third row left to right John Colcher E Elliott Norman Anderson Jack Porter Teacher Wallace Wilson Art Jacka Bill Leader Shelley Jim Burtw Cheri s Crawford Lee e Diehl Stan Watson

BOYS' CLUB

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CUP

to make a start toward some sort of addition to the basement and in 1935, they opened a special building fund. By December of that year they had acquired $702.00 in it. Much of this money was raised by putting on a play entitled "The Melting Pot" at the Empress Theatre, running three nights, and directed by Stewart Blanchard. Members of the Circles sold the tickets and the cast was served lunch at the church after each performance. It was truly a congregational effort. Then in June they staged a Highland Gathering under the direction of Mrs. Lorne Laidlaw, in the meadow south of Mrs. Hamilton's home at Brookwood Auto Court. This was one of the most delightful outdoor events ever held by St. John's Members.

In 1933, in time for the Fiftieth Anniversary of St. John's, the Ladies' Aid, like all good housewives, wanted everything to look its best, so they undertook two large projects. The Minister's small study was completely renovated under the supervision of Mrs. Tom Graham, and the late Mrs. Herbert Sissons with new furniture and a fireplace making a more comfortable room for the Pastor. Then, with the encouragement of Mr. Blackburn, the new red carpet and underpad for aisles and entire front of the church were purchased and laid at a cost of $569.00. This was considered a great extravagance in a depression year, but their choice of fine quality carpet has been vindicated since that same carpet is still in use forty years later, having been given to Riverside Presbyterian Church when our Sanctuary was renovated in 1957.

A good deal of relief work was carried out during the Depression, especially in giving clothing to the needy, and for two years groceries were purchased by the Ladies' Aid for two families. The amounts spent per week seem paltry today, but when it is noted in a newspaper of January 1935 that the stores advertising boiling beef at four cents a pound, and pot roasts at eight cents a pound, we can see that the gifts were a real help to the families.

ST. JOHN'S GRADUATES IN DEACONESS TRAINING

Young people have always adapted to the conditions in which they live, and the need for Christian leadership during this trying time must have prompted two St. John's girls to attend the Missionary and Deaconess Training School (later named Ewart College) in Toronto. They were Miss Ione Gordon, daughter of Mrs. Mida Gordon, and Miss Gertrude Rollo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rollo. Both girls took the full course, graduating in April, 1936.

Ione immediately plunged into the work for which she had been trained, going up to Pouce Coupe for a time, then to Birtle Indian School where she was the girls' Matron for some time. She returned to Medicine Hat in 1941, when she entered the business world for several years. She worked faithfully in the Brownie and Ranger activities

Irene Gordon

of St. John's until she was married to Paul Green in 1949 and moved to Vancouver Island.

Gertrude Rollo's career as a Deaconess is obscured by the lack of contact with her or her family. However, it is known that she trained as a registered nurse, after going to college. She went to Rocky Mountain House, after the Women's Missionary Society opened a hospital there, serving in the dual capacity of nurse and Deaconess for some time. Her next sphere of service was in one of our Foreign mission fields, where she contracted a tropical disease that required her return home. After a long convalescence she moved to California where she was living when last heard from by any of St. John's members.

The deaths of several revered senior members of long standing added to the discouragement faced by our Minister, so in 1937 Mr. Blackburn tendered his resignation and he preached his farewell sermon to the Congregation on the evening of Sept. 10, 1937. At that time Fifth Avenue United Church members cancelled their own service, joining St. John's to pay tribute to our Minister with Rev. Mr. Bainbridge assisting in the pulpit.

During the War, Mr. Blackburn donned uniform as a Chaplain, and while he was stationed in Calgary, he assisted St. John's many times when the pulpit was vacant, especially when his services were needed to conduct a funeral. His interest in our Church extended long after he left our City. After the War, he served in several areas of Western Canada, his last charge before retirement in 1960 being at St. Aidan's Church in New Westminster, B.C. St. John's members were saddened to learn of his death on August 9, 1972, at the age of seventy-six years.

Mr. Blackburn's son Malcolm Jr., who was a lad in St. John's Church, later entered the ministry of our Presbyterian Church. His Christian service has been principally carried out in the United States, where he moved about 1955. There he became involved in many radical social causes. About 1970, Malcolm was the only white minister in any U.S.A. black denomination, — the Africa Episcopal Methodist Church, Martin Luther King had spoken at this church in Memphis, Tenn., only the night before his assassination. A minister visiting St. John's reports that about 1970, Malcolm was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was very much involved in the struggle for civil liberties and racial justice in the Southern U.S.A.

THREE PULPIT CHANGES IN SIX YEARS

After ten years of ministry by Mr. Blackburn, the Congregation was faced with the unfamiliar task of choosing a new minister. Several men preached for a call, and the choice fell upon the Rev. W. D. Grant Hollingworth, who with his wife came to us from Prince Rupert to serve as our minister, in January 1938. His ministry was almost immediately affected by the outbreak of World War II, in 1939, and many of our members who had seen active service in the First World War were called upon to watch their children enter this latest holocaust. Remembrance Day in 1939 drew an overflow Congregation to St. John's as people gathered in mutual sympathy to face the futnre. The crowd was so great that broadcast facilities were installed in the Sunday School room downstairs by Mr. J. J. Nott and Mr. Joe Bell, to accommodate the anticipated attendance to hear the Goodwill speaker, Rev. Dr. Hugh Jones of Great Falls, Montana.

Rev. Mr. Hollingworth

In March 1940 Mr. Hollingworth announced to the Session that he had been posted for service as a Chaplain in the Air Force and prepared us for his imminent departure. Just as every family had to adjust to the demands of War so our church family was obliged to do the same, and Mr. Hollingworth was granted leave of absence to enter the Air Force.

The Congregation proceeded to call Rev. Wilfred Bntcher from St. John's, Nfld., to be our Interim Minister and he and Mrs. Bntcher arrived on Oct. 12, 1940. The Air Force Training Camp No. 34 on the western outskirts of the City was opened early in 1941, and Mr. Bntcher immediately gave a great deal of his time and ministry to calling at the Base and becoming acquainted with the men of all ranks. In May, he reported to the Session that he had sent out eighty letters to Presbyterian men stationed at No. 34, and our church began posting notices of our Services in their quarters.

In June 1941, Mr. Bntcher was appointed as a part-time Chaplain at No. 34, which necessarily curtailed the time he could spend on congregational activities. Our members were fast learning to assume more and more responsibilities in running the various Groups in the Church. In October, Mr. Sam Godlie tendered his resignation as Sunday School Superintendent, since he had donned a uniform too, but he was only given leave of absence, and Miss Kate MacDonald

Rev. Wilfred Butcher

a retired school teacher, assumed Mr. Goldie's duties for some time.

In spite of all the problems of Wartime the Ladies' Aid had continued to increase their Building Fund started in 1935. The need for additional space became imperative, and finally in the summer of 1941, a small extension to the church was erected. The only evidence of the construction is a notation of a cheque issued by the Treasurer of the Ladies' Aid to Mr. Cranmer for the sum of $3,107.00. A brick structure, possibly 25 feet square, was built at ground level on the north side of the church with a door cut through from the kitchen. It consisted of one room, heated with a gas stove and was a very plain building, but it answered a great need for space for Boy Scouts, Cubs, and Sunday School classes, from 1941 to 1953, when it was demolished to make room for the new Christian Education Centre.

On Dec. 21, 1941, Mr. Butcher left to accept a Chaplaincy in the Air Force, and we were faced with the awkward situation of trying to obtain someone for supply, since our pulpit was not actually vacant. The Session consulted the Presbytery in January 1942, on the matter, after which an air mail letter was sent to Rev. Mr. Hollingworth explaining the situation in which St. John's was placed. As a result, Mr. Hollingworth immediately cabled his resignation as our pastor, thus freeing us to look for a permanent minister.

During the vacancy following Mr. Butcher's departure, the Church was supplied by various Ministers, including Rev. Dr. F. D. Roxburgh for several months.

MINISTRY OF REV. ROBERT TAYLOR

Rev. Robert L. Taylor

At a meeting of St. John's held on Sunday, March 21, 1943, the Congregation accepted the report of the Supply Committee to extend a call to Rev. Robert Taylor of Indian Head, Saskatchewan. This was accepted and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and baby daughter arrived in June, to spend the next 24 years in the Manse, during which time they built themselves into the hearts and lives of St. John's members.

WORLD WAR II ACTIVITIES

The War cast its shadow on all aspects of life and ministering to the bereaved and anxious families became a daily part of our Pastor's duties. The St. John's Honor Roll for the Second World War contains the names of 152 men and women who enlisted in the Armed Services. The Session sent out a letter of greeting to all of our members in the Forces, while the Ladies' Aid financed the frequent mailing of parcels to members in uniform. A choir of men from the Royal Air Force Base came to sing in our church one Sunday in July, and many members opened their homes and even "adopted" a boy from No. 34 during those War years.

In anticipation of the ending of the War in Europe, our Session agreed that a service of Thankfulness should be held on the very day that hostilities ceased, so on V.E. Day our Church was filled to capacity with citizens who came to express their thanks to God for the end of the European part of the War. In March 1946, a "Welcome Home" held in the church was an outstanding success, the Session thanking the Ladies' Aid and the P.S.A. Club for the arrangements.

The custom of singing the National Anthem at every service during the War was now discontinued, and our Church gradually adjusted to peace-time activities. At the spring Communion Sunday in March 1946, there were 226 participants in the service, this indicating the return of many of our members from Overseas.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The ensning years of Mr Taylor's ministry which included underlying concern for the spiritual and financial welfare of the Congregation its outreach and worship proved to be very exciting years for St John's Attendance at Communion Service on March 8, 1959 is recorded as 246 at the morning service and 104 at the evening service The membership increased steadily until it reached 468 in 1966 the largest recorded

PRAYER GROUPS

Although weekly prayer meetings were part of the spiritual life of St John's from the earliest days they were eventually discontinued as was the custom of holding Preperatory Service on the Friday evening before Communion Sunday However during his ministry Dr Taylor organized a group of men who met for prayer every Friday morning for twelve years The informal gathering took place from 7 30 a m to 9-00 a m at the church and although originated by only a few the numbers grew to twelve or fourteen men Each man present took a turn reading from the Bible or from a religious journal Of importance to all was the practice of praying for those who were sick or in trouble It was found that this type of faith healing had a powerful effect

Mrs R L Taylor sponsored a small group of ladies who gathered for prayer in various homes one morning a week at 10 00 a m This group met faithfully for a good many years and enjoyed the fellowship of meeting together

Our Members' sense of isolation here in the West has always been a concern of the Session and one method of trying to overcome this has been the encouragement of the reading of our church magazine "The Record" by all of the Congregation March time was spent at Session meetings in discussing how best to promote this sense of belonging to the great work of the Presbyterian Church Our office in Toronto was also concerned about the lack of interest in the magazine as evidenced in the minutes of Session on Nov 28 1945 The Clerk of Session read a communication from Rev J H McInnes, Convenor asking for better support of the publication The matter was discussed very fully some of the Session even suggesting that the whole format of the book be improved With this end in view someone was to write to Toronto accordingly However the distribution of the Record continued to decline until it was decided to work out a better system, so commencing in June 1948 the Record was mailed out to members Mrs Tom Murray took charge of this work in 1950 and by 1952 there were 160 subscribers On the list but increased mailing costs created more problems Finally in 1959 it was decided to underwrite the expense of placing the Record in

every home in St John s. This has stimulated the interest and understanding of all members by continued contact with the plans and outreach of our Presbyterian Church both at home and abroad.

PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

The Presbyterian Training School opened in 1949 with Mr. Taylor largely responsible for its continued operation through his services as a lecturer and Member of the Board appointed to administer its affairs. He encouraged members of St. John s to attend the various courses being offered as well as to give of their wealth to assist in financing the continued operation of the School. Rev. Jesse Bigelow served as Dean for the first year while Rev. Stuart Coles held this position during the final two years of its operation.

Presbyterian Training School

While the student body never reached capacity, about 45 graduated from the School, notably Rev. Donald Kemble (a former Elder of St. John s), Rev. Robert Wyber and the Rev. Larry Jackson. Reference to P.T.S. would not be complete without mention of the Rev. Dr. John Brent who served as Dean of the School from 1950 to 1955. Dr. Brent endeared himself to the students at P.T.S., the staff, St. John s Congregation and everyone with whom he came in contact.

In 1956, our Church became very interested in the organization of a new Congregation on Riverside in connection with the Presbyterian Training School, located in the Hargrave home. The residents there carried on negotiations for some time with the Board in Toronto trying to finance the erection of a church building. St. John s members contributed the sum of $2,300.00 in donations which was sent to Toronto to be held in trust for the new church group. In March 1957, our Board loaned $10,000.00 to the Riverside Church group, interest free, then at the annual meeting the next year voted to make

this an outright gift. Also the carpet and furniture for the Sanctuary were given to the new church when we carried out renovations to our own Sanctuary in 1957. Ever since Riverside church was built we have joined their members in holding joint summer services.

In 1955 the Church purchased equipment for broadcasting over the local radio station and regular broadcasting of Church services, usually every sixth Sunday, has continued ever since. This has been part of the spiritual outreach of St. John's to both city residents and the rural areas of southern Alberta.

Medicine Hat experienced a period of expansion during the late 1940's throughout the 50's and in the early 60's resulting in rapid development of new residential districts in the Crescent Heights area of town. The Congregation decided that we should be prepared to build another Presbyterian Church in that part of the city, so two lots were reserved in east Crescent Heights with the idea of building at a later time. However, this plan had to be abandoned and the lots reverted to the city.

MEMBERS WHO ENTERED CHURCH SERVICE

The influence of Dr. Taylor's ministry to the Congregation led to the rewarding action taken by two of our young men who made the decision to enter the ministry and make it their life work. These being William Graham and Donald Kemble.

REV. WILLIAM JOHN GRAHAM

Bill Graham holds the unique distinction of being the only truly native son of St. John's (being baptized, raised and confirmed within the Congregation) who has entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in its 90 year history.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Graham, Bill was born in Medicine Hat on June 17, 1924, and was baptized in St. John's by the Rev. Thomas Wilson. After attending local elementary schools he entered Alexandra High School graduating in 1943 with his senior matriculation. In the same year he joined the R.C.A.F. and served until his discharge in 1945.

Having been brought up through the Christian education programme of St. John's, Bill became a communicant member of the Church at age 18, being confirmed at a Preparatory Service by the Rev. Dr. Roxburgh who was a supply minister in 1942 during the vacancy period preceding the arrival of the Rev. Robert Taylor. It was in 1946 during Dr. Taylor's early ministry in Medicine Hat that Bill decided to enter the Christian ministry. He entered the University of Toronto in 1947 graduating with a B.A. degree in 1950. In that same year he entered Knox College, Toronto graduating in theology

In 1953. In May of 1953 he was ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and inducted into the charge of Westmount Church, Edmonton where he remained until 1960.

For the next two years Bill served as minister in the new Church extension charge of Guildwood Village in Scarborough, Ontario. In 1962 he became a Chaplain in the R.C.A.F. serving successively in Toronto, Goose Bay, Trenton, Bagotville and Cold Lake, Alberta where he still serves.

Bill married the former Catherine McLean Peterson of Toronto on September 15, 1951. They have three children—Lexie 18, Cameron 15, and Scott 11.

REV. DONALD G. KEMBLE

Donald Kemble was born in Chester, England where he received his elementary education before entering the accounting profession. Coming to Medicine Hat in 1940 with the R.A.F., he met and married Miss Vera Pickles of this City. After the War, he returned to Medicine Hat continuing his work as an accountant.

Interest in St. John's Church led Donald to attendance at the Presbyterian Training School from which he graduated and to election to eldership on the Session of St. John's in 1952. He decided to enter the ministry, and while attending Brandon College he was appointed Student Minister at Southminster Church in Brandon. After graduating with a B.A. from Brandon College in 1956, he moved to Toronto in order to attend Knox College, serving at Westminster and St. Stephens churches while a Student. After graduating in 1958, he was ordained the same year, serving several Congregations in Ontario. He is now the Minister of Knox Presbyterian Church at Caledon East, Ontario.

Rev. Wm. J. Graham

Rev. Donald G. Kemble

BUILDING EXPANSION

The Christian Education Centre

The growth of the City of Medicine Hat was very slow during the War years and it was some time before much expansion took place. However, beginning in 1946, the population almost doubled in numbers up to 1964, growing from 12 860 to 25 279. Two large industries were located in the city, which helped to bolster the economy of the district and the community became prosperous as evidenced by the opening of entire new subdivisions on former prairie land on the outskirts of the city. The effect of this growth and affluence was quite apparent in St. John's where larger membership and greatly increased givings placed the Congregation in a new and challenging role in the community. New members were drawn into the Church from the large population of the city and fresh interest was aroused in every part of the life of St. John's. By 1951 it became apparent to the membership that the church facilities must be enlarged. A building committee was appointed at once to enquire into accommodation needed for Sunday School, week-day groups and various church organizations. This Committee consisted of representatives of Session, Board of Managers, Ladies' Aid and the Congregation, as follows:

Ladies' Aid	— Mrs. W. C. Campbell, Mrs. J. E. Davies
Board of Managers	— Mr. John Foulston, Mr. D. S. Hewthorne
Session	— Mr. Tom Murray
Congregation	— Mr. J. H. Yuill, Mr. J. G. Pratt

By 1953 the need for expansion became so imperative that the Board of Managers decided to employ "The Wells Organization" to come and conduct a fund raising campaign for a new educational centre. This Organization consisted of a highly-skilled group who worked out an incredibly efficient method of involving the entire membership of a Church, by prayer, enthusiasm and every-member canvasses, to peaks of success hitherto unheard of. They applied their techniques to St. John's with a success undreamed of by our members.

Replacing the Building Committee of 1951, a Construction Committee was now appointed representing all church organizations to study building needs and recommendations. The members were:

Mrs. W. C. Campbell	Mrs. J. E. Davies	Mr. J. Cuthbertson
Mrs. D. Lefever	Mr. G. Sisams	Mr. G. G. Sept
Mrs. G. G. Elder	Mr. D. S. Grant	Mr. J. Foulston
Mr. M. H. Stone	Rev. R. L. Taylor	Mr. J. H. Yuill
Mr. D. S. Hewthorne		

The next step was the formation of a Canvass Committee of twelve members appointed to work with the Wells Organization. They soon drew in many of the Church members organizing them into teams to go out and contact all of the Congregation, the Committee being comprised of

T A Hargrave	H R Mitchell	George Armstrong	George Murray
R C Black	Gordon Stevens	Dr W C Campbell	Maurice Stone
D S Hawtherne	Dr G G Elliot	J H Yuill	Rev R L Taylor

Early personal interviews resulted in the pledging of substantial sums thus lifting the whole program to an encouraging start. As the indicator mounted toward the objective set so the enthusiasm of the canvassers grew and the final week of the campaign found the teams rushing in and out of the church school room, bringing in pledges and obtaining names of new contacts to be made. The Ladies Aid members were on hand to serve coffee and lunch each evening. Finally, when the last members had been visited, the indicator soared to the unbelievable point of $111,000.00. This far exceeded the original objective of $85,000.00 and resulted in commitments being given by the members, many covering a period of 150 weeks.

Plans gradually progressed to the point where a contract was awarded to Johnson Construction in October 1953, building to start immediately with completion by August 1, 1954. The tentative plans provided individual Sunday School rooms, combined assembly room and dining hall, stage, a large modern kitchen, nursery for small children, storage closets, cabinets and a church office.

Mrs. J. W. Morrow who came to Medicine Hat in 1885 with her parents, officiated at the turning of the sod with the assistance of the Minister on October 25, 1953. As Mrs. Morrow struggled to push the spade into the earth, her great sense of humor prompted her to look up and say to Mr. Taylor - "What do you want, gas or oil?" She assisted again on May 19, 1954, at the ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone. Dedication of the Christian Education Centre was conducted by the Presbytery of Macleod after the morning service on October 12, with the Rev. Dr. N. D. Kennedy, Past Moderator of the General Assembly as Guest Speaker.

Every member and organization in St. John's was delighted with the spacious surroundings and convenience of the new building from the moment it was opened for use. The Ladies Aid had accumulated over $3,000.00 to spend on new furnishings and they proceeded to purchase all of the equipment that was needed. The old trestle tables became a thing of the past, being replaced by folding banquet tables while the rickety card tables were discarded for square stacking ones. Two hundred and fifty metal stacking chairs were purchased as well as plentiful supplies of new silverware, table linen and other equipment. This was immediately brought in and properly stored in

Old Kitchen

Building Committee 1951

Fund Raising Committee 1953.

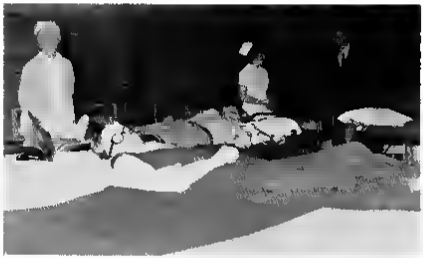
Turning the Sod Mrs. J. W. Merrow — Rev. R. L. Tayler

South view of Church Hall

North view of Education Centre

the new pantry and cupboards. It was now possible for several meetings to be held at the same time in the church building, with a new spirit of enthusiasm pervading the Congregation.

This new addition to St. John's was the first Educational Centre built by any of the churches in Medicine Hat and even in Southern Alberta becoming a model for other groups planning similar extensions of their facilities. The large Auditorium with dimensions of 87 x 38... has been used for many community activities outside of the Church. Including the Horticultural Shows, Fashion Displays, district and youth rallies. The Red Cross utilize the entire facilities of the centre to conduct the Blood Donor Clinics three times a year. So, from sharing our very first church building in 1884 with the pupils of the village we are still opening our doors for community endeavours.



Blood Donor Clinic Days At St. John's

MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE SANCTUARY

Major repairs to the Sanctuary had been carried out by Mr. J. G. Prall and several men of the Congregation in 1948. All of the dark V-joint cedar boards on the lower parts of the walls were covered with light colored plywood, as was the choir stall which circled the front of the church, eliminating the original brass railings and velour curtains. Stairways were changed and ceiling ornaments dispensed with. At this point the discovery was made that the large "wooden" balls attached to the ceiling beams in 1902 were in reality made of pressed paper! These renovations remained in effect until February 1957 when extensive changes in the Sanctuary were carried out by the Valley City Furniture Company of Dundas, Ontario. New pews and woodwork of light oak were installed, and new pale green carpet laid in the aisles and front of the church, this being done at a

cost of $18,200.00. The organ was completely rebuilt at a cost of $11,390.00.

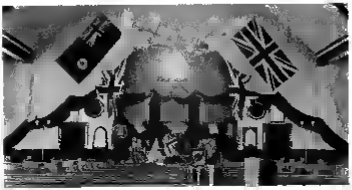
Rededication of the Sanctuary took place on Sept. 15, 1957, following the morning service with Dr. Brent representing the Moderator of the General Assembly. The organ was dedicated following the evening service. "To the Glory of God and in memory of those members who gave their lives in the Service of their Country in the two World Wars".

NEW ENTRANCE AND MEMORIAL WINDOWS

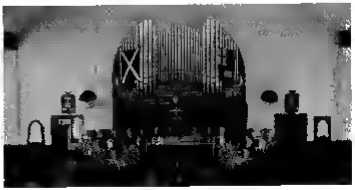
Renovations to the front entrance of the church were carried out in 1965 at a cost of approximately $35,000.00. Service of dedication took place on Feb. 2, 1966 during the visit of the Moderator of the 91st General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. James A. Munro, officiating. Further renovations were done after a period of time with the installation of beautiful stained glass Memorial Windows in the Sanctuary replacing the plain cathedral glass that had been in use since the church was built in 1902. Particulars about the windows are listed in the appendix.

Kindergarten during church service

CHANGES IN THE SANCTUARY



1915

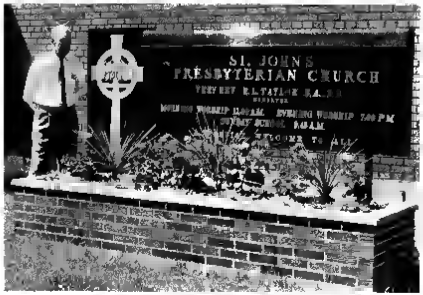


1933

1948

1965

Memorial Windows



Sign at the front of the Church
Designed J. J. Barrie member of St. John's.

MODERATOR OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Senate of Knox College in Toronto conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Rev. Mr. Taylor on April 25 1961, for outstanding work with his own Congregation and Boards of General Assembly over past years. When the news was received at the Manse that the Degree was to be conferred the Congregation never learned of the reaction of the adults in the household on that occasion but the recipient of the honor told some friends later of the Taylor children's attitude toward the news. When they were all seated at the table at noontime their father stood leaning against the counter and explained the information contained in the letter that had just arrived. They promptly wanted to know why this honor had been bestowed on him so he modestly outlined some of his activities on Church Boards etc. They digested this in silence for a few minutes then Johnny jumped up, drew back his chair, dusted it off with a great flourish and said, "Sit down Doc!" So the newly appointed Doctor of Divinity was immediately put down to size by his own offspring. Naturally the entire Congregation was delighted to have their Minister honored by Knox College and was pleased to have the privilege of presenting him with the gown and hood appropriate to his title.

Within two months further honors were bestowed upon our Minister when he was elected Moderator of the 87th General Assembly in June 1961 and once again the Session minutes reflect the feelings of Session and the Congregation with the recording of these remarks. "The members of Session are very pleased with the election of Dr. Taylor as Moderator of the General Assembly and know that the Church as a whole will prosper and benefit with God's help during his year as Moderator."

The first Communion Service conducted by Dr. Taylor when he returned home as Moderator (of General Assembly) was an occasion for solemn rejoicing by all of the members, who became acutely aware of the new stature of our Minister and of the Congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The ties between ourselves and the earliest members of St. John's were foremost in many minds and in recognition of this, the silver ewer and goblets, which had been stored away for many years, were lovingly placed on the Communion table as evidence of the tangible bond between those pioneer members and the present generation. None of the younger Elders had ever seen that first Communion set but were so impressed by the significance of its historic values that it has been reverently used ever since.

Dr. Robert L. Taylor, B.A., D.D.
Moderator of the 87th General Assembly
of the
Presbyterian Church in Canada
1961 - 1962

For the next year not only the Congregation, but the family in the Manse had to learn to get along without the head of the household while he travelled across the Dominion. In the years during which Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had occupied the Manse they had been drawn close to the members of St. John's in sharing the joys and responsibilities of raising a family. Pat (Patricia) and Bob, John, Nan and Lundy became well-known in the Congregation; both through their presence at all church functions and also through their father's occasional references from the pulpit which indicated involvement in the continual problems of parenthood. The arrival of Mr. Robert Taylor Sr., from Orillia, Ontario in 1957 completed the family at the Manse. This new personality added spice to St. John's gatherings as he often tried to conceal his obvious and justifiable pride in his son's achievements in the pulpit and elsewhere by his caustic remarks about "The Minister".

By 1961, Pat Taylor was a grown-up young lady and no one was surprised when romance entered her life. John Allison, a new graduate from Knox College, was appointed to act as supply in St. John's pulpit while the Moderator was absent on his official duties, and the hospitality of the Manse was quite naturally extended to him. It became a plain case of the bold young man who marched in and married the boss's daughter!

In June 1963, Pat and John were married in St. John's, the entire Congregation being invited guests for the happy occasion. The ladies of the church felt privileged to prepare a suitable reception in the church hall, after which the young couple left to make their home in the Manse at Kimberley, B.C., where John became the minister in the church there.

Dr. Taylor, during his ministry, was always interested in the work of the young people and encouraged member participation in the various young people's groups. These groups usually met on Sunday and sometimes during the week for worship, discussion and recreation. The aim was to study the meaning of Christianity, the Church in relation to the community and the world, and from this emerged a programme of Bible studies, discussions on current issues often resulting in some uninhibited free expression of opinion! The young people became aware of the needs of others and raised funds for the Deaconess Training School (later called Ewart College), Refugee Relief Fund, the Budget Fund, and also sent $100 for the work of overseas missions. In 1956 they purchased the Notice Board and Pamphlet Rack in the Narthex, which is still used today, for the purpose of displaying the various Christian pamphlets and literature.

Of the many projects undertaken by the young people, one in particular is remembered, which was both energetic and also an excellent method of teaching. Under the direction of Winnie and

Al Wilson. They produced a set of slides in 1957 entitled "The Story of Christmas" with a taped commentary. This was to be an authentic story of Christ's birth, and early in November and after the first snowfall, they set up shop in a barn out of the Stampede grounds where many animals were boarded during the winter. No artificial sets or props were used, with the exception of the camels made by Jack Barne. The straw was arranged, animals coaxed into place, actors suitably costumed, and all was in readiness for the first scene but something was missing — the sheep! A few could be seen out in the fields and the group tried to persuade them to participate in this endeavor but to no avail — when lo and behold there suddenly appeared Bill Bliss and his sheep. A few curious animals, they appeared to have talent for acting, wandered over to the set and were immediately "hired", adding the final authentic touch to the story. Upon completion of this project it was shown to the Congregation at a "Fireside" usually held following the evening service.

Many journeys were made to Lethbridge and Fort Macleod for Presbytery Rallies which provided food for thought and were an enlightening experience for those in attendance. Trips were also made to Elkwater Lake and usually became the highlight of the year. All this was made possible by the fact that the Taylor family owned a cottage there and it became a favourite meeting place for the young people. Retreats, hikes, weiner roasts and swimming were all enjoyed and during the winter months skiing became a favorite sport and it was quite an adventure to climb the hills (before the Ski Lift was installed), just to descend on your knees, fall on your back or on your skis! There were a number of occasions when a bone or two was broken! However these minor accidents did not overshadow the fellowship and hospitality extended by the Taylors at the cottage and the many memorable evenings spent in discussion at the Manse.

As the years passed changes were taking place in the young people's groups. They were now becoming aware of their own need for self-expression in worship and song. This trend began to appear in the early 1960's and the "generation gap" was becoming visible when the Young People's Group decided to hold a Parents' Night chiefly to inform the parents of their activities. Soon they were taking a closer look at our traditional services particularly the music! An example of this change is quoted from the 1964 annual reports: "Is Erica here? Erica Pratt is our pianist and indispensable to an important part of the program, namely singing. Believe it or not we like to sing and we like lively music. For this reason we use the Red Book called "Devotional Hymns" while we have no complaint against the Book of Praise (theology of the hymns is usually sound) there are more lively tunes in the Red Book. Recently a new wrinkle was added, we have been singing spirituals accompanied by a guitar! (Erica could do wonders with the tempo of "There's A Church In The Valley")

And so the "winds of change" became inevitable. Soon experimental lively modern "hymn tunes" were introduced into our traditional services and so a new age began — of contemporary singing and services with more emphasis on youth participation.

During the busy years that Dr. Taylor spent in Medicine Hat he developed a hobby that brought enjoyment to himself, the family and eventually to the Congregation. He became a bird-watcher! The location of the Manse on property adjoining the Saskatchewan river, plus the existence of a few trees on the back lawn created a setting for continual study of the many birds that flocked to the feeders set out by the family. Delight in the arrival of a new species was shared with friends and gradually our Minister conceived the idea of incorporating his hobby into a series of sermonettes on birds that supplied him with material for the children's sermons for several years. The adults as well as the youngsters always looked forward to the moment when a big cardboard was produced from behind the pulpit exhibiting a bird whose characteristics were expertly applied to human behavior.

This interest led to the acquisition of a small library of books as well as a large collection of pictures of birds to assist Dr. Taylor in continuing this method of including the children in the Sunday morning services. The little sermons achieved such fame that they were even written up in the Presbyterian Record.

ASSISTANTS TO THE MINISTER

The increase in the membership of the Congregation with the consequent expansion of all activities in St. John's led to a decision by the Board of Managers to obtain some assistance for our Minister. So, in 1955, Miss Marguerite Quickfall, Deaconess, was employed to assist the Pastor with church duties on a trial basis of one year, her term later being extended until April, 1958. After she left, Mrs. Albert Meier was employed as a part-time secretary until September 1959 when Miss Eleanor Mehrer took over the position on a full-time basis, being still with us in 1973.

Rev. John Allison was engaged as Assistant Minister for a twelve-month period from September 1961 to August 31, 1962 to serve the Congregation during Dr. Taylor's absence as Moderator of the General Assembly. In October of 1963 Rev. Brown Milne was engaged as Assistant to the Minister, directing his attention particularly in the area of Christian Education, until he tendered his resignation on June 30, 1965, on accepting a Call to North Vancouver, B.C.

FAREWELL

On January 25, 1967, Dr. Taylor informed the Session that he had received an invitation from a West Vancouver Congregation, so

was granted leave of absence to visit them on Feb. 26, on his return informing the Session that he intended to accept a Call by this Church if it was placed in his hands.

Having served our Church for 23 years and three months, Dr. Taylor concluded his ministry to St. John's on June 25, 1967. The Session recorded the appreciation of our members to him for his understanding patience, leadership and encouragement during the years he served as our Pastor. He and Mrs. Taylor were honored by farewell parties and gifts by St. John's groups and prior to their departure, Fifth Avenue United Church held a Sunday evening service to which the entire community was invited. At that time their Sanctuary was filled with friends who gathered to pay tribute to the Christian leadership which our Minister and his wife had provided for so many years.

Mr. Don Hawthorne Conferring With Dr. Smith (the New Minister)

A NEW ERA

A Long Vacancy and Arrival of Dr. Smith

The Rev. L. D. Henkinson of St. Andrew's Church, Lethbridge was appointed Interim Moderator by the Presbytery of Macleod, and carried out his responsibilities to St. John's conscientiously and effectively for the next eight months. When needed, he met with the Settlement Committee acting as Moderator of Session and arranging supply. The Congregation was indeed indebted to Mr. Henkinson.

Our Church was fortunate in that a Student Minister from Scotland in the person of Andrew McLellan was appointed to serve the Congregation for July and August 1967, with supply for the remaining six months being available on a week to week basis.

The pulpit being vacant for a period of eight months not only affected attendance at the regular services of worship, but also had an effect on the financial condition within the Congregation. These are the inevitable results when a "Call" is being processed. The assistance of Rev. K. C. Doka, Supt. of Missions, Synod of Alberta, during the time the pulpit was vacant, is gratefully acknowledged.

Dr. D. C. Smith

During the eight-month period when the Manse was vacant, the Board undertook extensive alterations and redecorating in the building. Mrs. Don Hawthorne assisted greatly in carrying out these plans. Over the years many other repairs and changes have taken place, usually over the heads of the occupants, causing them much inconvenience. When the ruling bodies of the Church decide to do a thing, it is sometimes carried out without consulting the Minister's family. This must have been the case about twenty years ago when the verandah was completely removed from the Manse and a small open porch built in its place. Young Bob Taylor, the Minister's son, was heard to say regretfully to the neighbors, "We liked the verandah, but the Ladies' Aid didn't."

On November 6, 1967 the Congregation voted to extend a "Call" to Dr. Donald C. Smith of Port Alberni, B.C. The Settlement Committee reported at the January 31, 1968 meeting that Pastoral ties with Knox, Port Alberni would be severed on February 15th, Dr. Smith and family

to arrive approximately February 19th. They reached Medicine Hat on February 22nd with Induction under the direction of the Presbytery of Calgary. The Service was held at 7:30 p.m. that evening with a reception held following Induction Service when our new Minister, his wife and family (Fiona, Sheila, Neil and Lenia) were welcomed by the Congregation.

Changing Patterns of Society and Church Life

St. John's in its 90 year history has had to face many varieties of problems and challenges arising out of changing social and economic conditions of the community. But perhaps none of these changes have presented as great a challenge as have the events of the last decade or so.

If the post war years witnessed a remarkable growth of population and economic activity in Medicine Hat (the city almost doubled in population from 1946 to 1961 — from 12,860 to 24,484 persons) the decade of the '60's saw a general slowdown in economic expansion in the city and virtually no population growth. Although the city and district continued to reflect a high level of prosperity throughout this period, the retarded population growth and particularly the loss of significant numbers of young people from the city in search of jobs and higher educational opportunities gradually began to have an effect upon the membership, church attendance and other activity in St. John's. (The Session reported to the Presbytery prior to the Call to Dr. Smith that of 468 members on the roll no less than 93 were non-residents — mostly young people attending school or recently employed in Calgary or Edmonton — and that only 337 persons could be considered active members).

But it economic changes were having an effect on St. John's in this period, the gradual change in the social habits of the people was likewise effecting church life and particularly church and church school attendance. The advent of T.V. in the mid 50's, the shorter work week, the almost universal ownership of motor vehicles, with the resulting increased mobility of people, especially on weekends, the changed attitudes toward Sunday observance, the easy access to greatly improved summer and winter recreational facilities (especially at Elkwater), the growing popularity of extensive winter holidays, and many other similar social trends have all contributed to the declining trends in church and church school attendances in the last 10 or 15 years.

As early as the mid 50's the Friday evening preparatory services which preceded Communion Sundays were discontinued. By 1959 the Session began to discuss ways and means of altering the evening services to halt the gradual decline in attendance. By 1967 only a handful of persons regularly attended these services and so, during the vacancy period, Session discontinued them and they were never

resumed except for special occasions. Session minutes throughout the 60's and into the '70's record a gradual decline in attendances at special services such as Good Friday Communion and Christmas Day services as well as the number participating in the quarterly celebration of the sacraments. In the church school the average enrolment of well over 200 in the late 50's had declined to 166 in 1964 and to just over 100 in 1972.

It must be remembered, of course, that the social changes affecting the life of the Church in the past decade or more are not peculiar to St. John's. They are typical of changes affecting all the major Churches and denominations. From the time of Church Union in 1925, the Presbyterian Church in Canada had grown steadily each year right up to 1964 whereupon a sharp decline set in. The great church building boom following the second world war continued until the early 60's when it almost came to a halt (Nationally, membership declined by over 20,000 between 1965 and 1971 and church school enrolment from 112,157 to 67,531 during the same period). Therefore, in this discussion of social changes affecting the recent history of St. John's congregation it is important to realize that the challenge facing us here in our local community is the same challenge that confronts the Church of Christ everywhere in our modern secular society.

Ministry of Dr. Smith

In an attempt to deal as effectively as possible with the challenges of the times in which we live many innovations and experiments have been carried out in recent years, some of which have been successful and some not so successful.

The Family in the Manse 1972
Mrs. Smith, Sheila, Fiona, Dr. Smith
Neil, Laura

In order to maintain the work of the Congregation meet our large commitments to the wider work of the Church in Canada and overseas and launch out in new directions of witness It is necessary that all members take seriously their responsibilities to be good stewards of their financial resources This has been carried out most thoroughly in recent years through the use of stewardship education programmes designed to involve the whole congregation in this vital aspect of support for the Church's work and witness It is amusing to note that in St John's financial statement of 1893 it was reported that the Congregation had been unable to pay the Minister his full stipend during the year and still owed him $256 93 at year end Happily this sort of precarious financial situation is a thing of the past thanks to the liberality of our members and the wise use of funds by Session and Board members

It is with justifiable pride and satisfaction that we can say that for the past 15 years at least St John's has been unexcelled among Presbyterian Churches in Alberta in givings to the larger work of the Church This tradition continues to the present day In this our 90th anniversary year we have accepted the largest allocation in our history $5,000 for the General Assembly's Budget In addition to this ongoing yearly commitment St John's in 1968 accepted its full allocation of $18 594 to the National Development Fund of our Presbyterian Church At the end of 1972 the Congregation had contributed $15 397 of this total — the largest amount per capita of any Church in our Alberta Synod In 1972 the Congregation also donated over $500 to the new Varsity Acres Congregation in Calgary to assist them in erecting their church building

This consistently high level of Christian liberality over the past two decades has enabled St John's not only to meet its wider commitments but to provide large and adequate new facilities — the auditorium C E facilities, renovated sanctuary new front and narthex — for congregational and community needs In recent years, an attempt has been made to allocate a larger share of our financial resources to 'people' — to the training and development on our human resources To this end, the Session in 1969 and 1970 sent several groups of church school teachers and C E leaders to seminars and training events prior to and during the introduction of the new Christian Faith and Action curriculum In 1971 and 1972 8 or 9 office bearers were assisted in attending two Presbytery sponsored weekend retreats for elders and managers Most significant of all St. John's sent no less than 9 delegates to the Presbyterian Congress at the University of Guelph, Ontario in June 1971 Made up of members of the Session, the young people and the ladies of St. John's our delegates (Susan Dodds Gail Foulston Ronald Grant Donald Grant Eleanor Mehrer Marjorie Middleton Geraldine and Chesley Schneider and Winnifred Wilson), joined some 600 other delegates in a thrilling

and inspiring event that truly deepened and enriched their Christian faith and experience.

Among the most notable changes in the life of St. John's in the past decade have been experiments in the area of church worship and praise designed to encourage livelier and more active participation and involvement of the Congregation. In 1958 at Dr. Taylor's suggestion certain changes had been made by Session in the regular Sunday morning order of worship in line with recommendations from the General Assembly and reflecting the newer insights into Reformed worship. These changes were incorporated in the new Book of Common Order issued by the Assembly in 1964. During the first months of Dr. Smith's ministry in 1968, the Session authorized the use of the "Service of Word and Sacrament" as contained in the new Book of Common Order. This revised order for the celebration of the Sacrament recovers many of the insights of earlier Reformed sacramental practice and includes congregational participation by means of a common prayer of confession and other responsive acts of worship.

In the musical portion of worship also the introduction of contemporary hymns and new tunes to familiar words has taken place. Both the Senior and Junior Choirs under the direction of Mrs. E. Pedersen have done much to "popularize" the contemporary music among the Congregation and they have assisted greatly in other new acts of Congregational worship where the people's participation is required. With the issuing of the revised Book of Praise in late 1972 (the first revision since 1918) the choirs are busy introducing many of the fine new hymns to the Congregation in preparation for the issuing of the new books to the people at a service in May. The gift of a fine new piano for the Sanctuary by the Ladies' Aid has also made possible piano accompaniment to certain musical presentations as well as fine organ-piano duets by Mrs. Elder and Mrs. Pederson.

As noted in an earlier section in reference to our youth groups there had been for some time a strong desire on the part of our young people for more contemporary expressions of worships — not simply in the music and prayers but in the form of address or presentation. Consequently, for the past four years beginning in 1969 the youth groups (age 16-19) have presented two or three contemporary youth services each year using a variety of formats — dialogue, drama, musical presentation — which have given opportunity for their own expressions of Christian worship and communication. At most of these the young people have led the praise with guitars and other instruments. In the spring of 1971 two such services were held, one using excerpts from the popular rock opera "Jesus Christ - Superstar" and the other using drama, readings and music on the theme "Who is Jesus?" Commenting on these services in the September 8, 1971 newsletter Dr. Smith wrote: "From what I and the other members of Session have gathered, there was a rather mixed reaction to these

Youth Group 1972

Some of the members with Dr. Smith — Malcolm Siesone, Gerald Geddes, Brennan Schneider, David Sissons, Anne Ballantyne, Roberta Dodds, Susan Dodds.

and other "unorthodox" services presented in the past. Admittedly, they are not everybody's "cup of tea", but at our May and June meetings the Session discussed at some length these services. It was our feeling that we should convey to the congregation our conviction that these various experiments in contemporary worship have the full support and blessing of the Session. They do not represent a "catering to the young people", but are rather a vital and necessary attempt to convey the gospel in new and vital forms for people — young and old — of our day. It was felt that all our members, even if they personally prefer the familiar hymns, prayers, and format of the traditional service, should be willing and eager to enter fully into the spirit and activity of these new forms of worship on various occasions. We must remember that our traditional service has evolved over many centuries and while it may still mean much to us personally and still convey the gospel adequately to our situation, such is not the case for multitudes outside the Church and even for many who are members of the Churches."

Another innovation is worship designed to stimulate congregational participation and reaction to the message of the sermon has been the practice inaugurated in 1969 of having a short service (about 45 minutes) on the first Sunday of each month, followed by a question and discussion period, concluding with a coffee and fellowship hour. These events have proved to be reasonably successful, especially when the sermon topic has lent itself to a stimulating and thought-provoking discussion.

During June of both 1971 and 1972 St. John's held a morning service outdoors at Woolfrey's Farm at the edge of the city. Both were followed by a congregational lunch and picnic. The first of these was highly successful but the second, which included an outdoor communion service, was cut short by inclement weather. At both of these events a congregational band composed of young people and older members organized by Dorothy Hanley led the praise. This band has also played at two or three services in the Church in recent years.

Another feature of the past five years has been the regular monthly publication of a congregational newsletter. Prepared by the Minister and Secretary, this newsletter first appeared on a monthly basis on June 3rd, 1968 (by co-incidence the 85th anniversary of St. John's!) and has been well received by the Congregation. It has proved to be an effective instrument for keeping St. John's members and adherents informed on all aspects of the life and work of the Church both locally and world wide. While on the matter of communications the summer of 1971 saw the installation of a public address system in the Sanctuary on a rental basis. This has proved to be very helpful to those with hearing difficulties.

St. John's Farewell for Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson of 5th Avenue United Church

Orchestra at Service Woolfrey's Farm

In an effort to improve the continuity of attendance in the Church School, a radical innovation was introduced in October 1970 whereby boys and girls in grades 1 to 9 (ages 6 - 14) attend sessions once a month on Sunday afternoons rather than on a weekly basis on Sunday mornings. Following the general format of a Vacation Church School with recreational periods interspersed between teaching sessions the afternoon begins with lunch together following the morning service and concludes at 4.30. This new Church School format has been extremely successful especially in ensuring continuity of attendance in a congregation where many highly mobile families are absent from the city at least one or two Sundays a month. This unique experiment is now in its third year and its success has sparked interest and enquiry from numerous sources across our Church in Canada.

To conclude this modern period mention should be made of one very significant recent change which took place in the law and government of the Presbyterian Church whereby women for the first time were made eligible for ordination to the ministry and eldership. By action of the General Assembly in 1966 this long overdue change took place which now makes it possible for women equally with men to have a share in governing and decision making processes of the Church. Since 1966 women have had access as Ministers and Elders to all courts of the Church — Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly — from which they had previously been barred. History was made in St. John's in 1969 when our first two women elders were elected to the Sessions in the persons of Margaret Dowkes and Linda Flaig. Since their ordination and induction they have proved to be among our most competent and diligent elders.

Conclusion

This 90 year history of St. John's now comes to a close. Its pages have recorded the successes and failures, the strengths and weaknesses, the joys and the heartaches of many hundreds of men and women and children who have worshipped and served the cause of Christ in and through this Congregation. There is a story of courage and faith — the struggle of a handful of members with meagre resources to establish a Presbyterian witness in a tiny pioneer community; the faith and dedication of a Congregation of only 79 members in building in 1902 this fine Sanctuary seating 450 in a community of only 1 570 persons. The hardship and losses endured through two long and tragic wars. The sad era of mass unemployment and deprivation of the depression years. The commitment and sacrifice required to erect the badly needed educational and recreational facilities which serve us so well today.

From these pioneers and fathers in the faith we of St. John's today have received a "goodly heritage". May we be worthy of their labours and their trust as we strive to meet the challenges and opportunities of this time in which God has set us.

DONALD C. SMITH

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr. Edwin McKenzie
Chairman of Anniversary Celebration
Committee

Church Service June 3, 1973, 11 a.m.
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Guest Preacher Dr. R. L. Taylor
Dr. D. C. Smith Minister
Choir led by Mrs. R. E. Pedersen
Service broadcast and recorded courtesy of
Radio Station CHAT

1:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon Medicine Hat College
2:30 p.m. Program in Medicine Hat College Theatre

MINISTERS WHO SERVED ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION
1883 - 1973

EARLY SUPPLY MINISTERS

Name	Arrived	Left
Rev. Angus Robertson Missionary	June 1 1883	June 4 1883
Mr. David Anderson B.A.	April 23, 1884	October 1884
Rev. Thomas Davidson M.A.	November 1884	Aug. 22, 1885

RESIDENT MINISTERS

Rev. James Herald, B.A., B.D.	November 1885	March 1890 Died
Rev. Angus J. McLeod, B.A.	May 1890	March 1891
Rev. Charles Stephen, B.A., B.D.	April 1891	Sept. 30, 1891
Rev. J. A. Jattery	October 1895	May 18, 1896
Rev. James Morrow, M.A., LL.B.	June 1, 1896	June 30, 1918
Rev. Thomas Wilson	Oct. 11, 1918	January 1926
Rev. Thomas McConnell, B.A.	Feb. 10, 1926	Nov. 10, 1927
Rev. M. Stewart Blackburn	March 14, 1928	September 1937
Rev. W. D. G. Hollingworth, B.A.	Jan. 19, 1938	June 1940
Rev. Wilfred Butcher, B.A.	June 1940	Dec. 21, 1941
Rev. Robt. L. Taylor, B.A., D.D.	June 1943	June 25, 1967
Dr. D. C. Smith, B.A., B.D., Ph.D.	Feb. 25, 1968	

Note: Degrees are listed as of the time these Ministers served St. John's

ELDERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Date of Election	Name
1886	Wm. Cousins, J. Hargrave, Thos. Tweed, Geo. McCuaig
1891	John Young
1907	David Milne, W. R. Hay, R. H. Mitchell
1909	James Wilson, C. Pratt
1913	J. T. Bell, Wm. Rutherford, H. Stewart, H. O. Dugan, Dr. W. McDonald, R. C. Porter, P. Robertson
1918	J. A. Cameron, E. W. Thomas, A. Reillie, T. F. Reynolds
1919	T. McFeetridge, J. W. Hamilton, H. Stewart, Wm. Crewford, Jas. Mitchell
1928	A. W. Bell, F. Ferguson, D. Martin, John Hill, E. A. Bell, J. Clelland, W. Milton
1929	R. Corder, W. Dawson, R. Kennedy, P. Aikenhead, Dr. J. C. Hargreve, J. J. Nott
1938	D. D. Thomson, Thos. Murray, Ralph Gordon, Sam Gaffin, Geo. Hewson
Note:	Records are missing from 1938 to 1944
1944	J. L. Wyatt, Herb. Lucking, Dan McLeod, J. McPhail, *J. Cuthbertson, Allen Gunter
1952	Dr. G. G. Elder, E. Forde, *D. S. Grant, Don Kemble, R. Pettigrew, Wm. Rutherford
1953	*J. Telford, R. Gordon, Jr., *G. McArthur
1955	J. Cocks, L. Shaver, T. A. Stevens, D. A. Scott, H. Wallace, McLaren Ewart
1958	A. Bauman, M. Cellend, B. De Jong, H. S. Mann, *J. G. Pratt, *A. J. Wilson
1960	Ian Harkness, T. Montgomerie, Clarke Moon, O. Nelson
1962	*D. S. Hawthorne, *E. McKenzie, Dr. E. J. Sinton, *Dr. V. W. Sobey
1965	*R. Feulgen, F. Hasenmaster, *Vel Marshell, Ed Nelson, *Robt. Porter, Glen Yost
1966	*Dr. A. Gerden, *G. Hanley, R. Richardson, *H. Sorenson, *C. Schneider, D. Towle
1969	*Geo. Cocks, *Mrs. C. Dewkes, *J. Horeman, *Eric Lloyd, *G. Plews, *W. J. Sissons, *Mrs. Fred. Ship
1971	*D. J. Beresh, *D. R. Shave, *G. H. Sissons, *D. Van-Wyngaarden

St. JOHN'S CLERKS OF SESSION
SIX ONLY IN 87 YEARS

William Cousins
1868 - 1915

Andrew Baillie
1915 - 1925

James Clelland
1925 - 1927

John Hill
1927 - 1950

Allan Gunter
1950 - 1954

Donald Grant
1954 -
The present Clerk of Session

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

1884 - 1908

CHAIRMEN	SECRETARY-TREASURERS
Mr. Thos. Davidson	Mr. Sam Archibald
Mr. Thos. Tweed (6 years)	Mr. G. W. McClung (2 years)
Mr. J. Horner	Mr. R. Sage (2 years)
Mr. John Young	Mr. J. Hargrave (17 years)
Rev. J. W. Morrow	
Mr. W. Cousins	
Mr. Henry Stewart	

Managers' Minute Books are missing from March 1888 - October 1915.

1919 - 1933

J. T. Bell	T. H. Rand (2 years)
E. A. Bell	J. A. Bell (7 years)
Dr. Oliver Boyd	P. D. Stone
Mr. John Hill (2 years)	T. A. Alkenhead
Mr. J. E. Davies	J. C. Porter
Dr. J. C. Hargrave	Mr. Sam Short (1923 - 1946)
Mr. J. M. Taylor	
Mr. Roy Cunliffe	
Mr. Thos. Murray	
Mr. J. A. Bell	

Managers' Minute Books are missing from 1930 to 1945.

1946	Mr. J. W. McLane 2 years
1946-50	Dr. G. G. Elder 2 years
1951-57	Mr. Maurice Stone 7 years
1958-59	J. R. Harrie
1960	Dr. J. L. Wyatt
1961-62	Mr. John Poulston 2 years
1963-65	Mr. Gerald Grant 3 years
1966-68	Mr. Harry Yuill 3 years
1968-71	Mr. Harold Richardson 3 years

Mr. John Hill 1946

Mr. J. A. Barrie 1949 to 1973

Members believed to have served as Chairmen during 1933 - 1946

J. C. Sevenrige	W. L. Codlington
R. G. Sutchert	Thos. J. Taylor

The Historical Committee offers sincere apologies to St. John's members whose names may have been omitted in this book due to lack of records.

Officers of St. John's for many years.

Mr. Samuel Short
1923 - 1946

Maurice Stone
Chairmen
1951 - 1957

Mr. J. A. Barrie
1949 - 1973

TRIBUTE TO TWO SENIOR ELDERS

We wish to pay tribute to two senior Elders who were members in our Congregation sixty years ago and who are still active in St John s.

McLaren Ewart

John Cuthbertson

McLaren Ewart is a grandson of our first resident minister Rev James Herald He was born and raised in Medicine Hat joining St John s In 1908 before going to Queen s University During his residence in Moose Jaw Sask he became an Elder in the church there Upon returning to Medicine Hat to live he was elected to eldership here in 1955 rendering valuable service as a member of our Session for several years He is presently a member of the Historical Comm for this book

John Cuthbertson came to Calgary from Scotland then to Medicine Hat where he joined our church in 1913 Following service during World War I he returned to Canada and spent his life in the banking profession While living in Red Deer he was elected to eldership there In 1941 He and his wife moved to Medicine Hat which has been their permanent home for many years In 1948 Mr Cuthbertson was elected as an Elder in St John s and is still serving faithfully on the Session In 1972 he requested retirement but was persuaded to continue because of the need for his wisdom and counsel in church procedure

HISTORY OF HILLSIDE CEMETERY MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

A study of the minutes of the Board of Managers of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat reveals the little-known fact that it was our Church that first acquired and owned the 40 acres of land which later became known as Hillside Cemetery. This acreage became the nucleus of the present large area eventually owned by the City of Medicine Hat. Our Church held title to the original 40 acres until 1907, and then a portion of it until 1914.

The story of this property began in 1888 when the body of little Cecil E. S. Hargrave, age two years nine months, was buried at a spot on the prairie about two miles south-west of the hamlet and near the road to Fort MacLeod. There must have been a verbal agreement with some official of the Dominion Government land office for such a decisive action to be taken. It was not until December 1888, that it was stated in the Board minutes that "a government grant of 40 acres could probably be obtained in subdivision 8 of section 26 in township 12, range 6 west of the 4th meridian in the provincial District of Assiniboia, in the North-West Territories." Mr. William Cousins and Mr. Herald were appointed to secure the land, so on Jan. 25 they reported that the Dominion Lands Commission had written showing a strong possibility of granting it for the purpose of a Cemetery. The matter was pursued, and finally, on Dec. 2, 1892, the deed was issued, the land being a *gift* to the Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat from the Dominion Government.

It was the rule of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that titles to property of congregations not free of debt, be held by the Church and Manse Building Fund, so the deed was issued to the Board of Management of the Church and Manse Building Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for Manitoba and the North-West, Medicine Hat, Assiniboia.

On April 12, 1893, the minister, Rev. Mr. Stephen, and Mr. Fisher, reported to the Board that they had visited the Cemetery in which burials had taken place since 1888. They found and located the boundaries of the land, and Mr. McTavish offered to stake it out. A full year passed before they decided to have the property fenced, specific directions for this being recorded. The fence was to be made of 6" x 1" boards, 4 ft. high, pointed with a 4" space between, and a base board 8" wide. A sketch made by Mr. McGrath was considered satisfactory, and he was notified to make a plan of same. Mr. McKivick was hired to build the fence, and at the Board meeting on Aug. 7, 1894, it was agreed that Mr. Finley furnish the lumber for the fence until definite arrangements could be made. On Dec. 3, his accounts were presented, showing the cost of the lumber as being $140.24, while the labor of Mr. McKivick and Mr. McGrath amounted to $92.50.

Mr Cousins surveyed the property and it was decided that lots be sold as follows 4 x 10' $2.50, 8 x 10' $5.00, 16 x 10 $10.00. Mr James Hargreve was appointed Custodian of the plan of the Cemetery being authorized to purchase the necessary books, cost later reported as $10.00.

In February 1895 it was decided to place a notice in the Medicine Hat News stating that lots in Hillside Public Cemetery are open for inspection and sale. Mr Tweed suggested that a second copy of the survey be made and the original kept in a safe place. In July, the Board agreed to let the Methodist Church have lots in the Cemetery in a block to be at the same price as sold to others.

By October 1896 the evidence of the financial burden carried by St John's was apparent when the Board made a motion that all accounts owing against the Cemetery be collected and a sum of money borrowed to pay them off. This situation arose because strangers and paupers were buried in the Cemetery, and no other denomination assumed the expense of the lots.

In November 1897, Mr. Hargrave resigned as Custodian and Mr. Consnie was elected in his place. At the annual meeting of the Church in January 1898, the Cemetery report showed a debt of $740.00. However in April, the Board paid the interest applied the cash on hand on the principal, and took out a new note. The church records give no further reference to the Cemetery until 1906 when at a Congregational meeting it was suggested that the Cemetery be put in decent shape and that trees be planted, so on May 23, a Committee was appointed to look after this. An attempt was made to hire a caretaker, but at the meeting next year, the Committee reported that it was difficult to get anyone. However, the property had been fenced and more lots surveyed.

A new Cemetery Committee was appointed in April 1907, the Members being Messrs. Morrow, Stewart, Milne and DesBrisay with Mr. Milne to look after the books. This Committee met and decided to arrange a meeting with the Citizens' Committee to see if they would guarantee the amount of money required to assist in making improvements to the Cemetery grounds. This Committee would give a note to the Presbyterian Church, the proceeds to be used for a caretaker's salary and other improvements. They also asked the Citizens Committee and the Hospital Board to go with them to City Council regarding expenses of burying paupers. Apparently the financial responsibilities carried by our Church was finally comprehended by the people of the town, because the sum of $900.00 was soon promised to the Chairman of our Committee, part of this being turned over to him. A house was built on the property, and a well dug, this being the first time that water was available. Also, graves put on the walks by mistake, were moved to lots.

By April 15, 1907, there were 233 graves in Hillside Cemetery. The City wanted some of our land to put a road through, so they acquired 20 acres of the 40 owned by us. When the road was finally completed, it reduced our acreage to 18.4 acres, on which we continued to pay taxes until 1914.

St. John's Board of Managers decided at a meeting on April 28, 1907, that it was time to obtain the deed for the Cemetery property from the Church & Manse Fund in Winnipeg, and get it registered in the name of a Board of Trustees for St. John's. So, on June 20, 1907, a Congregational Meeting was called at which time the Members of this Cemetery Board were elected, namely: Frederick Collins, William Finlay, David Milne, A. F. Burns, Henry Stewart and James Hargrave. The transfer was received on March 12, 1908, with the names listed above, on the title, the deed was deposited in the bank.

Minute books of the Board of Managers are lacking after 1908 for some time, but the records at City Hall show that St. John's continued to pay taxes on 18.4 acres of the Cemetery property until March 31, 1914. At that time it was turned over to the City, thus ending a period of responsibility and worry assumed by the men of St. John's Church for 28 years.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Ladies' Aid of St. John's

The Minute Books of the Ladies' Aid are almost complete from 1910 up to the present time, and it is with pride that we present a record of their accomplishments. They had been organized for 20 years previous to 1910, but we cannot quote their activities during that early period.

A few statistics will give the reader an idea of their known achievements since then:

From 1910 to 1972 inclusive, the Ladies' Aid raised		$77,512.00
They spent this in every field of church work:		
Repairs and re-decorating of the church		$ 5,525.00
Repairs, re-decorating and equipment at manse		10,422.00
Equipment for church kitchen		5,157.00
Cash assistance to Bd. of Managers:		
For St. John's Budget	7,632.00	
For brick manse building	2,552.00	
For General Assembly Budget	2,085.00	12,270.00
Small addition to church basement 1941		3,107.00
Furnishings and equipment for congregation		5,079.00
Donations to occupants of manse		6,422.00
		$47,982.00

One of the earliest contributions given was towards the brick Manse when members gave $1,000.00 at the time the building was erected. As the Managers found it very difficult to finance the mortgage payments in 1922, and again in 1924, they asked the ladies to take over complete responsibility for the Manse, but they refused. However, they did pay additional sums totalling $1,552.00 toward the mortgage and taxes, and the property was cleared of debt about 1926.

Our church members were certainly not afraid to assume financial responsibilities, because long before the Manse debt was paid, the Managers decided to install a pipe organ in the Sanctuary. This had been talked of for some years, and finally in 1919, a Casavant organ was installed. The Ladies' Aid donated $500.00 toward this.

Since women's work has always included household duties and furnishing, there has been one of the main spheres of interest of the Ladies' Aid since its inception. From the time of the erection of the brick church in 1902, it can be safely stated that this Group has provided most of the equipment in our church. There were no decorating problems for a good many years in the Sanctuary, but the grime from the big hot-air vents at the front of the building finally necessitated re-decorating, so in 1921, the Ladies' Aid had this done by Mr. Caldwell at a cost of $732.00. Again in 1930 they paid Mr. Kennedy $650.00 for similar work. The Board of Managers has always been most appreciative of all the things done by the women, as evidenced in their account of the annual meeting of Jan. 17, 1923. At that time, Mr. Jack Bell, the Church Secretary, recorded that "although times were adverse, the Ladies' Aid organization had raised $900.00, some of their disbursements including a handsome donation of $150.00 to the Managers toward the taxes, which was nothing but the usual attitude of this noble-clad organization."

Assistance in keeping up the Manse was given many times over the years, including re-decorating and attention to the grounds. The kitchen was altered and rebuilt about three times, but no furnishings were supplied to the home until the '40's, when, although electrical equipment was scarce, the ladies bought a refrigerator in 1944. During the years since that time, they have gradually assumed responsibility for supplying stove, washer, dryer, dishwasher, window drapes, and in 1968, wall-to-wall carpet for the entire main floor, stairway and upper hall.

Small obligations assumed over the years were paid faithfully for a long time, some of these being:

Payment of $24.00 per year for 40 years towards the Traveller's Aid Society work of meeting passenger trains.

Payment of quarterly gratuity to Mr. Cartlidge for 33 years — $2,000.00 for janitorial services.

Support of a Home Missionary in 1914	$ 250 00
Chinese Relief Fund for famine relief in 1921	$ 200 00
Donations of cash to Women's Missionary Society and Guilds 1922 to 1972	$ 499 00
Camp Kannawin, Sylvan Lake, 1957 - 1958	$ 250 00
Gowns, Mortar Boards and Surplices for our Choire 1923 - 1969	$1 078 00
Cash donations to Choir for music 1925 - 1952	$ 378 00
Presbyterian Training School in Medicine Hat 1951	$ 325 00
The new Ewart College, Toronto 1961	$ 400 00
Gift to Presbytery for Deaconess' car 1968	$ 200 00
Gift to the Board of Managers for Varsity Acres Church 1972	$ 150 00

From the earliest records available, we know that the Ladies' Aid has considered that visiting the sick was one of their most important fields of Christian Stewardship, and this has been carried out faithfully for over 60 years. Recently the visiting had to be re-organized due to the opening of several Nursing Homes and two Hospitals.

Mrs. Lame Laidlaw

President Ladies' Aid 1949 and Sixty-year Member

This is now under the supervision of a Co-ordinator and Key-Women with all of the ladies' groups participating. Flowers have always been sent to families of bereaved members of St. John's, this having been done by the late Mrs. John Hill until 1953, and then supervised by Mrs. Myrl Smith for the past 20 years. The Circles remember their own sick members but the Ladies' Aid pays for flowers for all shut-ins at Christmas time. In 1972 the Members delivered the flowers personally before Christmas.

Some of the methods of raising money are listed here:

1893 A melon social
1902 An ice-cream social in the Rink
1910 Concert and Tea at the home of Mrs. Smith
1910 to 1972 Christmas Bazaar every year
1911 Welsh Choir Concert. Several Chain Teas
1914 Concert by Mr. and Mrs. Duggan at the Bazaar
1915 Concert by Mrs. W. B. Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Duggan
1921 Rummage Sales became an annual event
1921 A play — The Old Maid's Convention
1926 Thanksgiving Supper given for many years.
1926 Recital by Mrs. Blackstock
1932 A play given twice. Director: Mrs. Molly Currie

1933 A play g ven twice by Mrs. Cnrrie and Mr Blanchard
1935 Recital by Mrs G. G. Elder
1944 Ladies catered every week for the summer to the Rotarians for their noon luncheon (after the Assiniboia Hotel on Third Street burned down)
1948 Catered to High School Graduation Dinner
1958 Annual Strawberry Tea - given every year since that time
Cook Books were printed and sold by several groups over the years

The strength of the Ladies Aid is directly attributed to the Circles, especially since 1918 when the President suggested that the members divide into groups and each Circle meet and work separately

Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne
Member of St. John's
1901 - 1972

This idea was immediately accepted and at the end of 1921 the Circles turned in $655.00. In the year 1930, some of these Groups began to give their own Annual Spring Teas, usually in members' homes and these were quite the highlight of the year for each Circle. Teas by the Ladies' Aid were dropped until about 1960 when one large Spring Tea was organized in the Church Hall by all of the Circles and the smaller Teas were discontinued, thus completing a cycle and reverting to their original methods.

In recent years the Ladies' Aid has become an Executive for the Circle Members who turn in all their money which is then distributed as the Members direct. The membership and interest in both the Circles and the Ladies' Aid have dwindled alarmingly in recent years as more and more younger women enter the business world and do not find the time to give to the work of the women's organizations in St. John's.

The reader may well wonder how a group of women could possibly accomplish so much during the history of the Church, and we can only state that it has been carried out by several generations of devoted ladies who gave freely of their talents and time in the past 80 years.

In recognition of the services rendered to St. John's by our Ladies' Aid, we hereby list the names of the Presidents as far back as the records permit.

1893	Mrs. J. H. Spencer	1948	Mrs. J. D. Morrison
1910-1913	Mrs. J. Ewart	1949	Mrs. C. Dawkes
1913-1918	Mrs. (Ewart) Murray	1950	Mrs. W. C. Campbell
1918-1921	Mrs. J. W. Hamilton	1951	Mrs. A. Marshall
1922	Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne	1952	Mrs. Don Leleven

1923-1926	Mrs Alice McDougall	1953	Mrs J Hegarty
1926-1930	Mrs Nicholson	1954	Mrs J Fitzgerald
	Honorary President	1955	Mrs. J E (Une) Davies
1927	Mrs Fred Russell	1956	Mrs Lee White
1928-1929	Mrs S. W Wright	1957	Mrs. A. Kerryman
1930-1931	Mrs J A (Ida) McCombe	1958	Mrs J L Wyatt
1932	Mrs Perrie	1959	Mrs Sam Gelsie
1933-1934	Mrs Chas Richardson	1960	Mrs E T Lyon
1935	Mrs John Hill	1961	Mrs Gerald Grant
1936-1937	Mrs Ernest King	1962	Mrs Allen Gunter
1938-1939	Mrs C A. MacDonald	1963	Mrs Jack Sissons
1940	Mrs Lorne Laidlaw	1964-1965	Mrs Vel Marshall
1941	Mrs Earl Cooper	1966	Mrs. Ambrose Rahey
1942	Mrs Herbert Sissons	1967	Mrs. R. H. (Gwen) Mitchell
1943	Mrs. Eric Ansley	1968	Mrs Tom Sissons
1944	Mrs Tom Tayler	1969	Mrs Vern Sehey
1945-1946	Mrs A. Mills	1670-1672	Mrs. H. F. McKenzie
1647	Mrs. Wm Pushie	1673	Mrs W Gredley

THE CIRCLES OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The Ladies Aid minutes of March 1921 report that the Circles had been organized There must have been seven groups, but their titles were not listed only the names of the Convenors being given as follows -

Mrs J C. Hargrave	Mrs Robert Rutherford	Mrs R C Spreule
Mrs F Fergusen	Mrs Turner	Mrs. R C Becker
Mrs Sissons		

St. John's Hill Circle

Mrs Gelsie

Mrs Kent

The Hill Circle was organized in the early 1920's as Mrs. J Fitzgerald remembers attending soon after she was married in 1923 The Circle worked with the Ladies Aid at teas and bazaars to help out financially For a few years they held their own spring teas with Mrs Tom Graham and Mrs Barney Crockett giving their homes for these events One spring the tea was held at the High School Dormitory when Mrs A. D Foulston was Housemother there She also assisted the members in catering to two or three weddings. One year when Mrs. Herbert Sissons was the Convenor the Circle made

$1 000 00 for the Ladies' Aid. The membership has dropped from thirty to an average of eight ladies with Mrs. Sam Goldie acting as Convenor for the past twelve years.

Members in Recent Years

Mrs. McKee
Mrs. J. MacArthur
Mrs. Koopman
Mrs. A. D. Faulston
Mrs. P. Brown
Mrs. F. Nash
Mrs. V. Marshall
Mrs. Toole
Mrs. Goldie
Mrs. Birrel
Mrs. E. Forde
Miss N. Morrison
Mrs. A. Rigbey
Mrs. L. Gust
Mrs. M. Michie
Mrs. Eberly
Mrs. D. R. Kent
Mrs. E. Porter
Mrs. T. Montgomerie
Mrs. H. Richardson
Mrs. J. Hegarty
Mrs. M. Blythe

Northside Circle

There are no records of this circle prior to 1957, but we think that the circle was formed some time around 1925. In the early days the ladies held "home" teas to raise money; they also sold fancy work and home knit articles. At one time they put on a play "Old Maids Return" and realized a considerable sum of money from this. As the years went by the ladies helped with bazaars, dinners and sold fancy work, hand knit sox, mitts and novelties. They also had several rummage sales to raise money.

Some of the things they have purchased for the church have been:

lamp and table for the parlor — 1957
2 dining chairs for the parlor — 1958
hostess cart for the kitchen — 1961
tv. trays for the parlor — 1963
various small articles including hand-embroidered tea towels for the kitchen.

They started a "Name" apron in 1961, the idea being to get as many names of women in the church (men too if they wanted to contribute) embroidered on the apron. There were 7 sections or panels to it and the charge was 25¢ per name. There were 207 names on it when it was completed after 2 years when it was presented to Mrs. R. L. Taylor at our Xmas party in 1963.

Our meetings all open with a short devotion and we have had an average of 14 - 18 women over the years.

Members of Northside Circle

Mrs. Mitchell
Mrs. J. Jenkin
Mrs. Rutherford
Mrs. Kemp
Mrs. Porter
Mrs. J. Hicks
Mrs. McMasters
Mrs. McFall
Mrs. McIntosh
Mrs. M. Ross
Mrs. A. McMullen
Mrs. M. O'Reilley
Mrs. A. Flews
Mrs. M. Beck
Mrs. C. Phillp
Mrs. M. Laing
Mrs. Hassard
Mrs. M. Taylor
Mrs. J. Taylor
Miss M. Smith
Mrs. Brown Milne
Mrs. Hyde
Mrs. H. Dickau
Mrs. J. Yurashek
Mrs. A. Campbell
Mrs. Elder
Mrs. Weld
Mrs. Nixon
Mrs. Stanley
Mrs. Ross
Mrs. Slater
Mrs. Cook
Mrs. Fushlo
Mrs. E. Jackson
Mrs. E. Bradley
Mrs. R. Patton
Mrs. M. Berridge
Mrs. J. Storrs
Mrs. B. Meier
Mrs. M. Bowie

Northside Circle

Back Row left to right Ethel Jackson Marion Back Minnie Sowle Betty Meier Meuta Berridge Carrie Philp.

Front Row left to right Jean Starrs Alice McMullen Martha O'Reilley Ann Plews Rose Patten.

The Thursday Club

In 1946 a large group of energetic young married women was organized by Mrs Gordon Sissons for the purpose of providing a few special amenities for the entire Congregation Their first project was the installation of hearing aids in the Sanctuary for members who needed them Then they bought hostess chairs for the parlor, this comfort being enjoyed by groups meeting there ever since

Mrs Gordon Sissons
Dedicated Hospital Visiter

Perhaps their most helpful undertaking was the furnishing of the nursery for babies and tiny tots The husbands were called in to assist in this Jim Pratt installed the intercom so that the babysitters could listen to the sermon Jack Barrie and Don Lefever laid the flooring and Amy Hargreve made the drapes Cribs and toys were donated by all of the members

Money for the various projects was raised by the annual Strawberry Tea held in the spring this being so popular that finally the entire Ladies Aid joined in to help with this event Recently the

membership of the Club has diminished greatly but the members still meet and their present project is knitting afghans for our shut-in members whom they visit regularly

"Nursery Time" at St. John's

The Third Street Circle

Mrs. W. C. Campbell

This Circle was organized about 1921 when Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne was the president of the Ladies Aid. The group has worked consistently for over fifty years early members being Mrs. Sproule Mrs. J. E. (Florence) Davies Mrs. Herold (Lou) Pallon Jessie Cousins Elliott Mrs. W. C. Campbell Mrs. Lyle Wyatt Dorothy Davies Grant Lydia Christie Marjorie Yuill Mary Stone Myra Wright

The unusual money raising project carried out by these ladies was a "Parade of Homes", when several dwellings in the city were opened for inspection. Milts Hawthorne used her talents many times in carrying out decorative themes for the bazaars while Emma Campbell was the inspiration and mainstay of this Circle for many years

Members of the Third Street Circle

Anne Armstrong
Pearl Cuthbertson
Susie Ewert
Maurie Heine
Helen Mitchell
Isabel Mogridge
Anne Sibley
Jean Williamson

Emma Campbell
Una Davies
Berta Harrison
Dorothy McFarlane
Jessie Murray
Lou Pettin
Dorothy Stewart
Myra Wright

Grace Cousins
Ella Gardner
Millie Hawtheme
Beatrice McNichol
Mev Mann
Edith Rutherford
Bernice Tufford

Inactive Members — Edith Barclay and Eileen Sissons

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

How can a small History Book pay tribute to the Members of a Choir who gave so freely of their time for Sunday Services, weekday practices and all of the special occasions as needed? St. John's has always been blessed with dedicated choir members who have used their talents freely to enrich the services and lead the Congregation in praise.

We know, from the records in this book, that our first church was built in 1884 and that 50 chairs and 30 hymn books were ordered from Winnipeg in the way of equipment. The fact that an organ was purchased was not recorded, but we have definite proof that one was received from information that came to light recently. Apparently Lucy Wilson Bailey was our organist from 1884 to 1885. When she left Medicine Hat, our church gave her a Bible, the inscription in it stating that it was presented to her for her services as the first Organist 1884 - 1885. Her grandson B. L. Canfield, of Benton Harbor, Michigan, visited our church recently, giving us this interesting piece of history. As further proof of our possession of the instrument, in March 1885, our Sunday School donated $10.00 toward the organ.

We must also have had a choir to use those "6 Harmonized Hymnals," since the name of one of these choir members was Mrs. Frank Mitchell. She was presented with a Bible on the occasion of her marriage in the church on June 11, 1890, this being the first wedding of a member in our church.

In July 1900, Mrs. Ewert retired as Organist and the Managers were very pleased to recognize her services with the presentation of a gift the value to be $50.00. Miss Black was then engaged as Organist with a salary of $1.00 per Sunday. After the brick church was built in 1902, we learn that a boy was employed to pump the organ at $1.00 per month, this being increased in 1904 to $2.50 per month. Two of those organ boys are still living here today — McLaren Ewert who is a retired Elder of the Church, and Carl Hargrave of Redcliff.

youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Hargreave, original Members of this Church in 1883. Cecil remembers a very embarrassing incident in connection with his duties when he tells that as he was pumping the organ one Sunday morning, the Congregation was startled by a loud bang from the organ. McLaren, realizing what had gone wrong, rushed up to his assistance and found that the bellows had become unfastened from the frame of the instrument on one side, this causing the disturbance. The two boys soon repaired the damage and the singing proceeded.

A former member of our choir who achieved renown in musical circles throughout North America, is Mr. Reginald Stewart, who sang in St. John's Choir as a young man, when his father was the Organist here for several months, from 1914 to 1915. Both Mr. Stewart and Reginald became members of St. John's, and gave of their musical talents to the Congregation. Reginald went on to become Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and still later of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

The little organ must have been used for a long time, but in 1915, a "Hay" organ was put into the church by the company promoting it, but the Choir wouldn't have it, and even the Sunday School teachers didn't want it, so the owners were ordered to remove it. A piano was purchased and used for a time, and then finally in 1919 a Casavant pipe organ was installed, and is still being used, having been rebuilt in 1958. The addition of a Heintzman piano in the Sanctuary in 1970, purchased by the Ladies Aid, has given variety to the type of music presented, and is used to accompany the children's choirs and for organ-piano duets.

Over the years, our Choir achieved a fine reputation, since when they entered the Provincial Music Festival in 1924 and 1925, they were winners of the top award. However, they were suddenly faced with a dire emergency in 1925, when the Organist, Miss McKay, decided not to go with them to Edmonton. Mr. Bullen asked Mrs. G. G. Elder, an accomplished musician and a newcomer to our congregation, to help out by accompanying the Choir. She consented, and St. John's Choir won the Short Shield for the second time. This action on the part of Mrs. Elder is typical of her generosity throughout the years in coming to the assistance of our Choir and Ministers by giving so freely of her musical talents to assist in worship services at

Mrs. G. G. Elder

St. John's in 1957, when Miss Zwicker left. Mrs. Elder conducted the music for several months, persuading the Choir Members to enter the Rotary Festival. Mrs. Aurine Tanner Lewis used her talents to train the choir, so they won the Medicine Hat Brick & Tile Shield at the Rotary Festival.

Every year the choir has enriched the services at Christmas, Easter, and the Anniversaries with Cantatas, anthems and special music, often with guest soloists. They have also arranged organ recitals which were greatly enjoyed and which replenished the choir funds for the purchase of music for their library. In the matter of choir gowns our choir must have been garbed with proper gowns for many years but there is no record of first purchases. However, in 1923 when the Ladies' Aid bought 16 new gowns it is recorded that the old gowns were repaired and the gown cupboard enlarged. Over the years the Aid has replenished the supply as needed, then in 1962, the Board of Managers purchased the beautiful blue gowns presently in use.

A Junior Choir was first organized in 1936 by Mrs. Novak and the children have added great interest to the services especially at Christmas and Easter. The time and devotion given by our Choir Leaders and their assistants in drawing the children of the Congregation into active participation in our services of praise contribute immeasurably to their Christian education and life. At the time of writing we have both an Intermediate and a Junior Choir with about 30 children taking part every Sunday in the worship service.

A very complete and detailed history of our choir from 1925 up to the present time has been compiled by Dorothy Henley, who is herself a valued member, and one of the ace-starts with the Junior Choir. All special music rendered each year, with membership and officers has been listed in the choir history, and we would like to print a great deal of this interesting information, but space does not permit. However, we will close this sketch with the names of the present choir members in 1973.

Organist and choir Director — Mabel Pedersen

Agnes Bellamy	Joyce Herpell	Ann VanDel-Keeden
Bev. Bersch	Alice Anne Hewthorne	Linda Winkelaar
Eva Elder	Margaret Mew	Jim Barrie
Dorothy Burton	Mabel McKenzie	Ed. McKenzie
Birdeen Estes	Margaret Smith	George Plews
Mabel Ford	Dorothy Henley	Jack Sissons

ORGANISTS AND CHOIR LEADERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 1884 - 1972

1884 - 88	Lucy Wilson Bailey
1893	Miss Wellband
1896	Mrs. J. D. Renkin — resigned
1900	Mrs. Ewart — resigned

1905 June	Miss Mullins Mrs. Harry Tweed
1906 July	Mr Flemming
1906 January	Mr Bates
1912 - 13	Miss Hewitt
1914 — June 1915	Mr George Stewart
1918 February 1919	Miss L R Duggan (Mrs. G Blackstock)
1919 — March	Mr. Buskee
1919 — April	Mr. Robert Hoag
1920 — January	Mr A. J Hatch
1922 - March Dec. 1924	Mr Theodel Fessum
1925 - May	Miss McKay
1928 — June — June 1934	Mr Robert Pullen — Choir Leader Mrs George Esmonde White — Organist
1934 — Sept — June 1948	Mrs Frank Novak
1948 — Sept. - 1953	Mrs. Eileen McRae
1953 — 1954	Mrs. C G Elder
Sept. 1954 - Dec 1954	Mr Davis Ryan
1955 — Jan - June 1956	Miss Thelma Atkinson
1956 - Sept - Nov 1957	Miss Vera Zwicker
1957 Dec — June 1958	Mrs G G Elder
Sept. 1958 - June 1966	Mr Mervin Dlokau
1966 Sept. —	Mrs R E Pedersen

ST JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 1884 - 1973

Remember when? Do you remember when you attended St John's Sunday School? - perhaps borrowed books from the church school library? - recited the catechism? - performed in the Christmas pageant? - ran races at the Sunday School picnic when the weather permitted or watched movies or film strips if the weather was wet? - sang with great kindergarten gusto "Jesus Loves Me" and "Peas carrots for you" - (He careth for you)? - made the effort to attend regularly to achieve a diploma and seals? Are any of these memories yours?

The first Sabbath Sunday School record under the jurisdiction of the province of Manitoba dates back to June 29, 1884 and continues on to 1894. It is interesting to note the number of pupils in the first year ranged from seven to twenty-four and the collection from 50¢ to $2.45 per Sabbath. These pupils were divided into four classes — are any of these names familar to you?

TEACHER Mrs Archibald PUPILS Edith Porter Elizabeth Porter Jennie Tweed, Kate Cochran Bene Walton Charlotte Davis

TEACHER Mr David Anderson PUPILS Eddie Walton Thomas Bassett Fred Allot Alfred Bassett James Norquay and Collin Norquay

TEACHER Mrs. Tays PUPILS Mary Porter Bessie Cochran Marrion Cochran Eva Walton Ann a Bassett Sarah McCutcheon Maggie McCutcheon, Colfax McPherson Georga Cochran

TEACHER James Heigrave PUPILS Wilson Bassett, Moran Cochran Donald McKey Wm Norquay John Norquay

TEACHERS Geo M. McCreig and Mrs Lindy
In 1885 Rev Thos Davidson conducted a Bible Class consisting of John Clark Wm Fanning Donald McIver Jas Harper and J P. Lees.

People gain fame or glory for many reasons but I am sure that the most unusual one in this early Sabbath School record concerns a Sunday School student named Ed Bull. Ed. is listed in the enrolment record for Nov 1887 in Mr Alex Small's class A notation was made opposite Ed's name in red ink to this effect "Methodists tried to catch him but did not succeed" Ed's record shows excellent attendance and study of catechism and Bible verses We read too that Harry Tweed was "sick of chicken pox In February 1888

When families left town, it was carefully noted in the attendance record,

e g — "left for Rat Portage"
"went down the river on the steamer Northcote"
"went west on C.P.R., a carpenter" (A Bible class student)

Since the first Sunday School record book ends in 1894 and there is a 45-year gap till 1939 we regret that so much of this important part of St John's Christian education is lost to this history However a few facts have been gleaned from Managers' and Sess on records We will quickly note these items

June 11 1890 The Sunday School presented a handsome pulpit chair to the Church
Feb 3 1895 The Christmas Tree party was mentioned
Oct 19 1913 Mr Hay resigned from the office of Superintendent
Mr Owen accepted the position
Dec 18 1915 Mr Thomas took the office
Dec 1918 Mr. Elgin Bell served for 10 years to 1928
Jan 23 1919 The School added 200 volumes to its library

An unusual opportunity was extended by our Sunday School to Chinese boys who had come to live in our city In the annual Church Report of Jan 19 1916 we first hear of classes being conducted to teach the boys English The leader of this project was Miss Louise Reid, a well-known first-grade teacher in Medicine Hat She was assisted by ten teachers and it is recorded that these Chinese students did good memory work They had their own S School collection had banked $51 90 and were interesting pupils This branch of the work continued until 1924, when no further mention was made of it

Excellent attendance at Sunday School was a common practice in those years possibly because there were few distractions in our city to draw the attention of both adults and children away from their Church About 1919, Miss Lottie Carle (now Mrs Helmer) taught a class of boys in our Sunday School and she presented awards to the pupils of her class for perfect attendance A winner for the first

year received a gold and enamel pin suitably designed for the second year a gold wreath was added to encircle the pin and for the third year a bar was attached beneath the wreath These three year awards were won by Fred Trider R D Porter and Fred Millican the latter being still in possession of his pin

Mr Elgin Bell
Supt. 1916—28

Statistics received from Toronto regarding our regular Sunday School show that registration grew to 300 in 1925 but that does not mean that actual attendance reached that peak. To pick up the recorded history starting in 1939 we would like to point out that Sunday School teachers did not hold many business meetings their work was assigned by the Superintendent and they usually met only to plan the Christmas concert and the summer picnic

We pay tribute to the Superintendents and Teachers who carried on diligently over a period of many years some names appearing in the minutes again and again From 1939 on are included

Mr and Mrs. Sam Goldie
Mr and Mrs. Inglis
Mrs Phyllis Morrison
Dorothy Taylor
Cay Perrin
Isabelle Morrison
Miss Dilje Luyten
Miss Elsie Luyten
Miss Bain
Mrs Lindsey
Mr Hicks
Beryl Hicks
Mrs Murray
Mrs McArthur
Mrs Jim Fouleton
Mrs Dorreen Lefever
Zelma Stirling
Mrs Florence Foster
Rev R L. Taylor
Mrs Jean Taylor
Mrs. McCrory
Mrs. Brier
Mrs. Kemble
Mr & Mrs D Grant
Miss Dorothy Orser
Gordon McArthur
Mrs. McKee
Mrs J. Hufland

Mary Mitchell
Mrs Fitten
Mary Morrison
Miss Isabel Andersen
Mrs Rose
Audrey Rilkie
Mrs Dewkes
Audrey McKenzie
Miss Kate McDonald
Mrs Myrl Smith
Herrick Roche
Alane Anne Hewtheme
L/AC Ron West R A F
Miss Pellitt
Rev Simmons
Audrey Marchant
Miss Reva Fralfen
Miss W Foster
Shiela May
Mr Tom Sissons
Mr J Ratt
Miss Marguerite Quickfall
Mrs. Gordon Sissons
Mrs Ed Rutherford
Miss M Middleton
Miss C Starling
Mrs. J Knox
Miss Frances Robinson

Mrs Marshall
Frances Gnat
Agnes Hopkins
Marjorie Smith
Betty Wight
Mrs. Corbidge
John Locke R A F
Jean Philp
Mary Elder
Irene Gordon
Jim Cunningham
Hugh Thornton R A F
Eileen Simmons
Mrs L Sissons
Mrs Andersen
Pat Taylor
Jean Matthew
Barbara Salsmen
Mr A Baumen
E Mahrer
A Schneider
Mrs. Lang
McIntosh
Mrs. Marjorie Cocks
Mrs Heather Dickau
Mrs. Edna Gerdefellow
Gerry Henley
Mrs Chesley Schneider

Mr. Allan Gunter
Mrs. H. Richardson
Mrs. Gardner
Mrs. Pettigrew
Mrs. Tufford
Mrs. J. Barrie
Mrs. Kesme
Mrs. Fleig
Mrs. Irene Forde
Lillian McArthur
Rev. J. R. Milne
Mr. Jack Bertentyne
Pat McQueen
Miss Margaret Campbell
Miss Gale Foulston
Miss Heather Bellamy
Mrs. Bob Marshall
Mrs. Harry Yuill
Miss Cindy Schneider

Miss Mary Stanley
Mrs. Al Wilson
Mrs. Betty Meier
Miss R. Fountaine
Mrs. E. Lyon
Desmond Grant
Eugene Nieman
Marjorie Morrison
Jo Ann Simmons
Betty Forde
Frank Hagemeister
Mrs. Carol Yost
Mrs. Ann Plews
Janet Herkess
Mrs. D. Bernish
Miss Shelle Jans
Miss Jenni Barrie
Mrs. Don Matheson
Mr. Jim Pratt

Mrs. Pauline Predy
Mrs. Maurice Cantalini
Miss M. L. Fleig
Miss Betty Anne Matthew
Mrs. Margaret Mann
Miss Janette Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. D. Teale
Gloria Fauser
Rev. J. Allison
Marjorie Grant
Jean Kesme
Mr. Don Hawthorne
Miss Roslyn Barrie
Mrs. Pat Foulston
Rev. Dr. D. C. Smith
Mrs. Barry Shave
Mrs. A. Garden
Miss Susan Deeds
Mrs. Albert Russell
Mr. Gordon McArthur

In 1941 the average attendence was 104 pupils and the average collection was $4.77. At the Sunday School picnic in 1942 ribbons and nickels (one dollar's worth) were given to first prize winners and suckers (50¢ worth) were given to second and third prize winners.

In 1944 Cliff Steedman and Yvonne Leveque were awarded twelfth year certificates for perfect attendance and Bob Shiels won his award in 1948, also for perfect Sunday School attendance.

In 1945 there was a shortage of goodies for the children's Christmas treat - this being wartime, someone suggested we get some Cracker Jack; tangerines and peanuts if they were available. In 1945 the average attendance of pupils was 91, teachers 16, and collection averaged $6.37. Pupil enrolment was 135 and staff 19.

New school room facilities were constructed in 1955. For many years Mr. Maunce Slone donated a jar of nickels and pennies, the amounts varying up to and more than $200.00, a really good boost for Sunday School use. In 1959 the average attendance was 125 (enrolment 217), teaching staff and assistants 26. The best summer vacation Bible School was held in this year with an enrolment of 51.

The new once-a-month afternoon Church School program was begun in 1970. The children of grades one to nine are served a simple lunch after the morning service the third Sunday of each month. Then they go to their classes till 4:30 p.m. The attendance has been encouraging and the study material very good. Thanks are extended to the Ladies' Aid who finance the food, to the workers who prepare and serve the meal, and to the teachers who carry on the studies.

Due to the loss of many of the records some names will have been omitted. We offer our sincere thanks to all who carried on the work in the Church School.

A typical picnic in the early days is reported in the Medicine Hat News on Tuesday, June 7th, 1911 -

"On Saturday next, July 1, the pupils of St. John's Sabbath School will enjoy a picnic on the flat at Riverside. Mr. Hargrave has kindly consented to let the boys and girls have the use of the grounds and the grove, which will contribute to the enjoyment of all. All the scholars are asked to assemble at the church not later than half past one, when arrangements will be made to get to the picnic grounds. All contributing baskets of eatables are requested to leave them at Mrs. Rankin's — north of the track, and those on this side are asked to send baskets to the church where a rig will convey them to the picnic grounds. As Saturday is a holiday, it is hoped that a goodly number of people connected with the church will take the opportunity of being present."

THE CRADLE ROLL

A little-publicized work that has been carried out in the church for many years, is the Cradle Roll, which has always been looked after by one of the ladies for a few years, then handed on to someone else to keep records and send birthday cards to the little newcomers in St. John's families.

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In presenting the history of the Women's Missionary Society it is our hope that we can pay fitting tribute to the ladies of our Congregation who have devoted time, study, worship and faithful stewardship to the mission work of our Church at home and abroad.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has two Women's Missionary Societies. The Eastern Division covering the Maritimes and the Western Division covering the rest of Canada. Prior to 1914 the Western Division also had two societies, one supporting Foreign Missions and the other supporting Home Missions. A Foreign Missionary Society was formed in St. John's in the 1890's with Mrs. J. W. Morrow as its first president. There are no records of those early meetings.

The Home Missionary Auxiliary of St. John's was formed in May 1905, the dues being set at twenty-five cents for ladies and one dollar for gentlemen. Their second meeting was held immediately following that of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. No further records are available until June 12, 1909, when the minute book, started in May 1905, is now headed "Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society." A complete set of minutes is on file from then until this senior group disbanded in 1970.

In scanning these minutes many interesting points are noted. At a Thank offering Meeting on November 14, 1910, the group entertained the ladies from Knox Presbyterian, the Baptist and the Metho-

dist churches. On April 8, 1912 Mrs. G. L. Gordon of Redcliff Presbyterian Church gave an account of the mission work being done at Bowell — so few miles away. Before the years of radio and T.V., special meetings were the occasions for musical programs when members and their young daughters played the piano or sang. In 1913 the group had most of its officers and membership dropped from forty-eight to thirty-five when several of these ladies moved to the church on the hill — Westminster Presbyterian.

In 1914 the Home and Foreign bodies of the W.M.S., W.D., were united and the Medicine Hat Presbyterial was formed. The ladies worked hard to raise money. In 1922 the Presbyterial allocation was $800.00 of which St. John's share was $275.00. Mrs. Wm. Williamson, the first Presbyterial delegate from our group, was appointed to attend General Council in 1915. In 1916 the ladies presented their first Life Membership to Mrs. J. W. Morrow for her long and valued service to the entire Congregation. Over the years thirty members of the senior group received Life Memberships and they proudly wore the little gold pin with the emblem of our Church. The burning bush, emblazoned on it. Possibly the most interesting presentation was the one given by the Chinese boys to Miss Louise E. Beal, a teacher who had conducted English lessons for them in the church.

In 1925 Church Union swept away the existing Presbyterials, Synodicals and Council. Since St. John's had voted against Union and had retained its property and organizations we were one of the strong Congregations in the Province of Alberta. The W.M.S. of St. John's was invited to send delegates to General Assembly in Toronto in April 1925 to help in re-organization plans. Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne and Mrs. Nicholson were chosen, Mrs. Nicholson only attending. Three Presbyterials were formed in Alberta. St. John's becoming part of Calgary Presbyterial in October of that year.

In 1931 the W.M.S. groups in the southern part of the province formed the Macleod Presbyterial and St. John's members have over the years made up a strong part of that body. In 1948 and again in 1958 the question of dissolving Macleod Presbyterial and joining Calgary Presbyterial has been discussed. In 1958 a good deal of research was done on the matter. Both years it was decided to retain the status quo. Now again, in 1973 the question is under consideration partly because of difficulty in finding officers and partly because of a directive from Council Executive pointing out that Presbyterials should endeavour to conform their boundaries with those of Presbyteries.

FORMATION OF THE GUILDS

On November 10, 1944 a meeting of the young women of the Church was called at the Manse to organize a new group. Credit for this small beginning is given to Mrs. R. L. (Jean) Taylor and Mrs. Wm.

(Mary) Rutherford. As the membership grew from four to twenty-eight. In 1950 the name Isabel Taylor Guild was adopted in honor of the Minister's sister, Miss Isabel Taylor, a missionary in Formosa. By the end of 1951 the attendance was so large that the membership was split and two more groups were formed. The Hargrave Guild, this name honoring a pioneer family in our Congregation, and the Ruby Walker Guild, honoring a beloved deaconess in the work of the W.M.S. Thus St. John's had four groups. The senior ladies changing their name to "The Afternoon Study Group" in 1954.

THE PRESBYTERIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

A matter of intense interest to St. John's and especially to the W.M.S. groups was the opening of the Presbyterian Training School in 1950 in the James Hargrave residence on Riverside in Medicine Hat. Rev. M. S. Blackburn, at that time in Calgary, knowing that the house was available and that Mr. Hargrave had wished it used for some such purpose, was largely responsible for the establishment of the P.T.S. here. The building was purchased by the W.M.S. W.D., for the nominal sum of $10,000.00. The purpose of the school was to train lay workers for leadership in local congregations. The building was adapted to provide dormitory and classroom accommodation for forty students, but it was never filled to capacity due to lack of interest and even resistance on the part of several Alberta Congregations. There were about forty-five graduates of the annual course of study of about six months, and in addition there were well attended summer school sessions and bible study groups.

The Congregation of St. John's participated in the functioning of the school through financial support from individuals, groups, and the Congregation as a whole; through taking part in the summer school and bible study groups, and through the services of their Minister, Dr. R. L. Taylor, who was a constant lecturer and adviser during the seven years the school was in operation. Miss Dorothy Myers and Miss Marjory Morrison were graduates. Another graduate, Miss Winnifred Hobbelink, married part-time student Albin Wilson, and both have given faithful service to St. John's over the years. Three of the students, Don Kemble, Bob Wyler and Larry Jackson, went on into the ministry.

The key person of the school during his five years as Superintendent was Dr. John Brent. This quiet, unassuming man, with his outstanding Christian character, made a lifelong impact on all who had the privilege of studying under him.

Largely through the efforts of Miss Marguerite Quickfall, Deaconess and lecturer, a small congregation was established at the school which later grew into Riverside Presbyterian Church. A new church was built on the grounds and in 1965 the old house was demolished and the land sold for residences.

Devoted Members of St. John's

Mrs. J. E. Nicholson
Represented St. John's in Toronto after Church Union

Mrs. Ernest King
President of W.M.S. and of Ladies' Aid.

Mrs. J. W. Hamilton
40-year Member of W.M.S.

Mrs. James (Hermina) Mitchell
Ardent supporter of the W.M.S.

W.M.S. CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Perhaps the greatest activity and interest among W.M.S. workers all across Canada was achieved in the period 1958 - 1964 when Council set several goals for the one hundredth anniversary of the W.M.S. W.D. Several financial objectives were set and our groups all worked hard at these money raising projects which stimulated interest in the congregation as well as among our own members. The Isabel Taylor Guild sent Mrs. Gordon McArthur as their representative while four others attended the convention held in Montreal in May 1964, at their own expense, these being Mrs. G. G. Elder, Mrs. Myrl Smith, Mrs. Clarke Moon and Mrs. Charles Dowkes. The latter was Synodical Historian at that time and so the Medicine Hat ladies were asked to prepare a poster type display of Alberta W.M.S. history to be shown at the meeting in Montreal. A committee consisting of Margaret Moon, Terry Ball, and Margaret Dowkes worked for months on a suitable display which they took to the anniversary convention. This chart was stored in the vault at St. John's after being shown throughout the province at Presbyterial meetings. At Montreal, 1,100

women gathered from across Canada to share in the wonderful programe prepared by the Council Executive. The theme speaker for all three days was Miss Margaret Kennedy, one of our missionaries in India.

In 1967, when Miss Kennedy travelled across Canada while on furlough we were greatly honored to have her visit Medicine Hat. Here she spoke at a breakfast for W.M.S. Members, C.G.I.T., and Explorers, at the morning service and at a luncheon attended by Elders and Managers and their wives and W.M.S. Executive members. We have also been honored by visits from other missionaries from time to time.

The faithful giving of stewardship money by each member, done by envelope system with the amounts known only by the giver and the treasurer, has resulted in thousands of dollars being forwarded from St. John's through W.M.S. channels to further the work of our Society both in foreign fields and in Canada. As this history is being compiled, local members are preparing to assume the main Synodical offices. These positions have formerly been grouped in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. Now some of our own women will take up these provincial responsibilities for the next two or three years, thus adding greatly to the dedicated service contributed by St. John's W.M.S. members.

We are reluctant to close this report without mentioning the names of a few of the members who gave of their time and talent to maintain the work of the W.M.S. and who are not listed among the presidents. Some of these are Mrs. F. H. Sproule, Mrs. R. T. Cunliffe, Mrs. J. (Queenie) Mitchell, Mrs. H. Sissons, Mrs. Ada Dinnnen, Miss Margaret Smith and the Misses Jessie and Kate MacDonald, the latter having been honored by the Afternoon Study Group in 1960 when she retired after serving seventeen years as secretary. In December 1945 the senior group held a farewell for Mrs. J. W. Hamilton who had been a member for forty years. Mrs. G. G. Elder and Mrs. D. Bowie sustained the Afternoon Study Group during its last difficult twelve years by their faithful service in the office of President. Many of the ladies have held Presbyterial and Synodical offices over the decades thereby gaining knowledge of W.M.S. work while contributing to the strength of the senior organizations.

DISBANDING OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP

The changing life patterns with so many fully occupied working wives has taken its toll. On April 21, 1970, at the home of its last President, Mrs. D. Bowie, a meeting was conducted by Miss Marjorie Middleton, then President of Macleod Presbyterial, which formally disbanded the Afternoon Study Group which had originated in the 1890's. Some of the presidents who have served with these faithful women over the years are -

Mrs Wm (Jean) Williamson - 1914 - 1917 incl
Mrs J A (Anna) Carbert - 1918 1919 1926 - 1928 incl 1931
Mrs Thos. (Annie) Wilson - 1920 - 1924 incl Apr 22 - Dec 1925
Mrs. Theo (Annie) McArthur - 1932 - 1934 incl
(From 1918 to 1934 except from Jan to Apr 14 1925 all the presidents were named either Anne or Annie)
Mrs M. S. (Ruth) Blackburn - 1935 - 1937 incl
Mrs Ernest (Ethel) King - 1939 - 1942 1945 1946
Mrs C (Kitty) Starling - 1943 1944 1947
Mrs G G (Emmeline) Elder - 1948 - 1951 incl 1957 - 1962 incl
Mrs D (Minnie) Bowie - 1963 - 1970 incl

At the time of writing this history St John's has only one W.M.S. group. The Ruby Walker Guild disbanded in 1961 due to lack of members. In January 1971 the Isabel Taylor and Hargreve Guilds joined forces and took the name Hargreve Taylor W.M.S. Their total membership was about thirty active and thirty-three Associate members. (Associate members do not attend meetings but do contribute financially). Each group was having difficulty getting officers and by amalgamating, the total number of local officers was halved. Thus some members were freed for positions of Presbyterial and Synodical level. This action has proved to be wise especially as they move into acceptance of heavier Synodical responsibilities.

JUNIOR GROUPS

The W.M.S. groups have always been interested in their junior groups, the C.O.C. (Children of the Church - formerly the Mission Band), the Explorers and the C.G.I.T. They have sponsored these groups over the years, giving them financial assistance and making them aware of their membership in the great work of missions.

Mission Band 1909 - 1913

There may have been Mission Bands organized in our Church over a period of years, but we have a record of only one - in the minute book of a Mission Band that flourished from 1909 to 1913. The children's meetings began on Feb. 20 1909 when they met after school, with an attendance of 15 members who paid 10¢ dues. Miss Janet Morrison was the President and Miss Edith Wilson the Secretary-Treasurer, they and later leaders guiding the children in Mission Study. A great deal of hand work was also done including dressing dolls, making quilt blocks by the girls and cutting out pictures for scrap books by the boys. These items were given to Indian Schools sponsored by the W.M.S.

The highlight of this little history was a program and social

evening in 1910, which included recitations, solos, instrumental duets and choruses. Children mentioned in the minutes were:

Grace Wilson	Isabel McKay	Annie Wilson	James Williamson
Mey Shields	Earl Bell	Mey Osborne	Marjorie Agnew
Dorothy Wilson	Lillian Hamilton	Doris Hopper	Elsie Gordon
Ruth Allen	Jane Craig	Glyde McLaren	Ruby Allen
Lyle Wyatt	Robert Malcolm	Hattie Malcolm	Walter Bridges

The Minutes recorded on a fine winter day that "The skating was unusually good on the river, so the sewing was postponed." The Band raised $38.00 at their table at the Bazaar in 1910, which is a remarkable amount for a Children's Group.

C.O.C. and Explorers

Mrs. R. L. Taylor
Organizer of Explorers

Two mid-week organizations in St. John's that included the children six to eleven years of age were the "Children of the Church" and the "Explorers," both of these Groups having identical objectives to draw the children to the church during the week to participate in activities related to worship, mission study, recreation and service to others.

From 1957 to 1960 Alice Tombling, Anne Knox, Doris Richardson and Mary Marshall devoted their talents and time in promoting the C.O.C. Group. Then in 1959 the Explorers were organized with Mrs. R. L. Taylor and Anne Knox as Counsellors with an average attendance of 12 girls. During the years since then, the Group has flourished and the children were given training in many branches of child development. Leaders assisting Jean Taylor were Winnie Wilson, Aileen Sinton, Thora Barrie and Gladys Gardner. The girls worked at some project almost every week, so that by Christmas and Easter they were equipped with an array of gifts to deliver to the Shut-ins of our Congregation. The children couldn't raise much money, but contributed approximately $15.00 yearly to Missions. One continuing project has been the collecting of used postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society. The girls operated with the financial help of the Women's Missionary Society.

When a girl was initiated into Explorers, she was given a red star, followed by blue and gold stars as she performed required tasks. For attending faithfully for three years, she was given an "E" pin, then graduated into C.G.I.T.

In 1967 the Explorer Group held a farewell picnic for Mrs Taylor, Counsellor for eight years. She was presented with a gold maple leaf pin and photo album from the girls.

Gerry Schneider became Counsellor after Mrs. Taylor moved away and they continued their activities making novelties for the Bazaar table and fudge and grape jelly for the Shut-Ins of the Congregation. Due to the small number of girls available in St. John's in 1970, our Group joined with Riverside Explorers under the leadership of Zan Ballantyne and Gerry Schneider. The following year Shirley Meier and Francie Riddell assisted. This combined group had twenty members and continued with the Explorer program.

Jean Taylor, Leader — Gladys Gardner — Thora Barrie
Roberta Morrison — Barbara Pratt — Joan Gunter — Jeanette Kehan
Nan Taylor — Heather Sinton — Betty Chow — Hazel Chew

C.G.I.T.

The C.G.I.T. Movement started in Medicine Hat in 1921, under the leadership of Miss Farr, who reported at the annual Church meeting that this new group was progressing well. She was referring to a Christian organization for Teen-age girls formed in Eastern Canada about 1916, whose program was based on the Scripture verse "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man", thus giving each girl an opportunity to develop mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. This program literally swept the country, and the St. John's Group was well organized by 1921. All early minute books have been lost, but the annual meeting reports of the Church for 1927, 1928 and 1929, state that reports of C.G.I.T. were given, their leaders being Joanne Barrie, Mae Hill, Dorothy Davies and Miss Gillespie.

The uniform of the white middy, navy skirt and tie were adopted very early in the history of this national Society. summer camps were an important part of their program, and by 1940, annual Vesper

Services in the Churches were sponsored by the Society. In larger centres a Girl's Work Board co-ordinated the programs and advised leaders. Here in St. John's the C.G.I.T. became overshadowed by Brownies, Guides and Rangers and there was no group for some years. In 1958, our Minister, Dr. Taylor, got a group organized under the leadership of Eleanor Mehrer, with 9 girls attending, and this has flourished for 14 years.

In carrying out an activity that is helpful to the Church, our girls have distinguished themselves in their assistance at the Sunday morning Nursery, which is held in the basement of the church. The Thursday Club gave the girls $35.00 which they used to accumulate materials and toys to create a happy atmosphere for the tiny tots. Cribs were also available for babies.

Each year the Women's Missionary Society conducted an affiliation ceremony, impressing on the members that C.G.I.T. girls are part of the W.M.S. This service was sometimes preceded by a Mother-Daughter Banquet.

Money raising projects included participation in a City-wide sale of Hallowe'en candy, and making of novelties for the Bazaar.

In 1963 nine girls attended C.G.I.T. Camp at Camp Kannawin near Sylvan Lake. In 1964 they took part in a Play, "The Marriage Arrangement". In the Jahisa Festival sponsored by the W.M.S. When Eleanor Mehrer resigned in 1964, the new leaders were Margaret Moon and Norma Lyon.

Two Rallies of District C.G.I.T. Groups have been held in St. John's. — In 1961 when Anne Knox was a member of the Work Board and again in 1964, when the fiftieth Anniversary of the C.G.I.T. was celebrated. Mavis Milne and Winnie Wilson were also helpers with the work at that time.

In 1965 a group of Riverside Church girls joined our members and in 1969 the two amalgamated, partly due to difficulty in obtaining leadership. In 1970 the C.G.I.T. put on a play for the Annual Synodical meeting of the W.M.S. which was held in Medicine Hat that year.

Norma Lyon, Margaret Moon, Jean Sterrs, Ina Gilker, Gwen Sissons, Marla Van Wyngarden, Ellen Noble, Donna Preety, Joan Gunter, Nan Taylor, Jane Moon, Carol Sterrs

GIRL GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RANGERS

Guiding began with Robert Baden-Powell of London England A Rally was held at the Crystal Palace in 1909 for boys interested in Scouting and some 11 000 attended — and so were the girls! Imagine the reaction when, at the end of an all-male march, there appeared a brave posse of girls dressed in Scout jerseys, neckerchiefs, and long skirts! In 1910 Robert Baden Powell persuaded his sister Agnes to take these young girls under her wing and from that time on Guiding began to develop rapidly spreading to Canada the following year and groups were organized as early as 1912 in Alberta the first being in Calgary

In 1932 a meeting of teen-age girls at St John's congregation was called to form some kind of organization for them. Out of this meeting came the suggestion to form a company of Girl Guides At that time few girls had ever seen a real live Girl Guide, this occurred at a function in Calgary. Neither leader nor girls knew anything about Guiding but from this beginning emerged the three forms of Guiding a Brownie Pack, a Girl Guide Company and a Ranger Company with St John's Church being the sponsor enabling each group to use the number 1 after the name title identifying the groups as being the first organized in the community. The late Mrs. Mida Gordon, through her concern for the youth of St John's agreed to become the first Captain a post she held for ten years, and Miss Alexandra Murray (now Mrs Jack Bellantyne) the first Lieutenant. The new Movement soon captured the imagination of our young girls and then another interested member of St John's Miss Caroline Conner (now Mrs Fred Flaig or more commonly known as "Lins") turned her boundless enthusiasm and energies into the Guiding Movement and it was through her efforts that these groups began

During the years of the 1940's monthly Church parades and missionary meetings were continued in conjunction with the regular Guide programme It was a thrilling experience for the Guide to belong to a group where she discovered interesting things about the world in which she lived, where she learned to use her hands her eyes and her mind and at the same time have fun and recreation with others of the same age. Guiding taught them about nature, how to hike to camp to cook to be a homemaker, first-aid and of course how to play. Over the years many girls too numerous to mention, worked hard for the various Badges All Round Cord, and the Gold Cord, the highest award in Guides (last year this award was discontinued and is now replaced by the Canada Cord) The records show that only 2 girls received this award from St John's, the first being presented to Mary Mitchell (the late Mrs J.M Barrie) on March 18, 1940 This achievement held special significance for St John's Company as it was the first Gold Cord earned by a Guide in Medicine Hat Working towards this goal began the day a Guide was enrolled until her 18th birthday, when all tests

had to be completed. Due to the difficulties of the tests many girls were unable to complete the requirements needed for this coveted award and so it is fitting that we recognize Mary's love and devotion to Guiding which remained throughout her life. In later years she was actively involved in the Local Association and was District Badge Secretary for many years. It was with great sorrow that we bade her a final farewell on August 11, 1972. The second Gold Cord was received by Miss Rae Fountaine in 1955. A former member of St. John's, Miss Fountaine now resides in Calgary and it is interesting to note that both Gold Cord Guides chose nursing as their career.

In the war years the girls turned their thoughts and energies into knitting for the Red Cross and helping in many ways with the various war-time projects. In the mid-forties Mrs. Marjorie Matthew became Captain and the work of the Guides continued to grow. Membership in the Company during the 30's and 40's is recorded between 30 and 47 girls, and in some years there was a waiting list of girls eager to join.

Guides flourished in the 1950's with membership maintaining a high level. The Chief World Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, visited Medicine Hat in 1952 and again in 1955. In an unofficial stop-over visit, she inspired and encouraged Guides and Guide alike in her informal talk given at St. Barnabas Church, where all the uniformed young ladies of the city gathered. In 1958, after many years of faithful service, Mrs. Matthew turned the Company over to Miss Barbara Burns (now Mrs. Bill Morrison), and was assisted by Mrs. Janet Rayment, who became Captain the following year.

1960 was Jubilee Year when the Guides observed the 50th Anniversary of Guiding in Canada, and the members of the Guiding Movement celebrated this event by planting a highway of golden tulips across Canada. This ribbon of tulips was a tangible and beautiful token of appreciation from all in Guiding as well as an effective way of catching the eye of the public. The groups in Medicine Hat planted over 800 tulips in a giant Trefoil next to the Trans Canada Highway in the south-west section of the city and also a border of flowers was planted in the Park next to the C.P.R. Depot. In July, a Jubilee Birthday Party was held and over 1,000 attended! Also in 1960, Elaine Lelievel (now Mrs. Don Toole), a former Guide, took over the Company until she moved to Lethbridge in the summer of 1963. It is sad to record that during the period 1963 to 1965 we were unable to find a regular leader to assume the leadership and the Guides gradually weakened. It was with gratitude that we welcomed Mrs. Barbara Morrison in the fall of 1963 as Captain. She accepted this position to prevent the group from disbanding, becoming both Captain of St. John's Company and District Commissioner. However in 1965 due to many unfortunate circumstances the Company was forced to close. In September of 1966, Mrs. Toole on her return to Medicine Hat, once

more assumed leadership and St. John's No. 1 Company was reorganized and under her capable supervision grew from a group of 10 girls to a full company of 30. She held this position until 1971 when Mrs. Kathy Hill became Captain and holds this position today.

It is unfortunate that the names of the "Charter Members" of the first organized Company in Medicine Hat were not preserved, but we list those which are remembered today.

Isabel Murray	Isabel Milton	Marguerite Michie
Nancy Hargrave	Eileen Conner	Frances Gael
Marion Matthews	Kathleen Conner	

The Lieutenants who worked with the Guides over the years are:

Alexandra Murray	Dirje Luyten	Eileen Seasons
Caroline Conner	Barbara Burns	Lorraine Hesk
Marion Matthews	Elaine Lefever	Mary Thompson
Jean Perrin	Bessie Barnes	

Some of the former members of the Guide Movement have grown up in our congregation and are still with us. We list a few names that come to mind:

Eileen Conner Lloyd	Jean Philp Storrs	June McClellan Helgesen
Kathleen Conner Pratt	Margaret McLeod Baker	Geraldine Pratt Hanfel
Dorothy Mitchell Scott	Joyce Deeson McQueen	Margaret Mogridge Cocks
Edna Taylor Goodfellow	Betty Popplewell Meier	

If only we had space to list the hundreds of girls who took part in the Movement in St. John's since 1933 but on reviewing the years we find that many members of St. John's gave willingly of their time and talents to the service of Guiding over the past forty-one years. Therefore, we recognize the Commissioners of the Medicine Hat District who were members of St. John's: Mrs. Tom Murray (3rd) Mrs. Don Hawthorne (4th), and Mrs. Phyllis (J. D.) Morrison (5th). It was during their terms of office from 1939 until 1959 that guiding grew from a pioneer Movement to a well organized unit. There have been many changes in Guiding over the past years but the spirit and enthusiasm is the same. Years hence some of us will be looking back and laughing at the uniforms worn and the format of meetings.

In the early years Guides as part of their experience held camps at Elkwater Lake and were joint affairs with St. Barnabas and St. Patrick Companies. It is recorded that 14 Guides from St. John's attended camp in 1936. The following year it was decided to operate the camps independently and each Company be responsible for organizing their own group. Caroline Conner having perfected the trial and error method became the first Camp Commendent and with her undaunted courage took the Company camping from August 8th to 14th with the help of Miss Sarah Cowker.

The camps were held in what is now the Monalta Trailer Park, but due to the traffic and the curious onlookers, the open area where they pitched their tents proved unsuitable, especially on Saturday

evenings when the young cowboys of the district descended upon the camp. It was soon decided to re-locate to a more secluded area. But where? Mrs. Tom Murray, second Division Commissioner (following Mrs. E. M. Cowker) strongly felt the need to isolate the camp and so one day she bravely set out on foot in search of a location exploring many areas in the region. Quite by accident she wandered across the creek beyond the old camp and after much struggling through the densely wooded area came upon a beautiful valley — and immediately claimed it as the new camp-site which is still used today. Camping was different in the 1930's and 1940's. During this period it was known as Pioneer Camp, due mainly to the fact that little information about camps was available and a leader had to rely on her own resources for a successful camp. Pioneer Camp was simply one where everything was out in the open except for sleeping in tents and stringing a tarp over the eating tables — also over the open fires when the rain poured down. This same fire, sometimes a trench fire and sometimes an altar fire, did however, manage to provide heat for cooking the porridge and the stew for some 20 to 30 Guides. It was during Mrs. Don Hawthorne's term as Commissioner that she realized the need for improvement in the camping facilities and was instrumental in raising enough funds to erect a building for cooking and dining purposes. Also, during the rainy days, camp-fire could be held indoors and even tho' the crackling of burning logs was absent the girls enjoyed the same comradeship. From this early beginning, and as the leaders gradually qualified, camping developed into a full week of organized out-door activities. Over the years St. John's Guides have spent happy and profitable days camping at Elkwater and today they still pitch their tents and dine in the "Cook House".

BROWNIES

Brownies now get into the act! Not to be outdone, little sisters of Guides began to appear at their elder sisters' meetings in England about 1910, neatly clad in frilly muslin pinafores and often escorted by their "nannies", and so began the younger and separate section of Guiding. This group was called "Rosebuds" but as no one liked the name Robert Baden-Powell renamed them Brownies.

And so it was on January 18, 1934 (and registered Dec. 8, 1934) the first Brownie Pack began meeting in Medicine Hat with Caroline Conner as the first Brown Owl and Miss Ione Gordon (now Mrs. Paul Green) the first Tawny Owl. Like the newly-formed Guide Company, the Brownie Pack and its leaders struggled to learn how to be a Brownie! "Now, you must know and understand, O Best Beloved", to quote Kipling. That till that very week, and day and hour and minute, no one had even seen a Brownie in Medicine Hat or knew anything about them. But these young sisters, as those in England, wanted the same experience as their elder sisters, and so once again Una under-

look to pioneer this unknown but exciting programme of Brownie lore. And what a challenging experience it must have been as retold by her. "But ignorance is bliss and we plunged enthusiastically into the project and the whole endeavour prospered. We even had the nerve to take thirty Brownies by train to Calgary for a huge Scout Guide Jamboree. Granted they were all attached to a circular rope and not one was lost but what a day! It makes you shudder to remember the long jolting cinder train ride of those days the herding to the Jamboree the feeding the bathroom visits and the long ride home. But we did see Lord and Lady Baden-Powell...the Chief World Scout and Guide." Undertaking such events must surely have inspired others since the Pack has never looked back in its 30 year history in St. John's.

As the years passed the emphasis of Brownies shifted to providing opportunities for young girls to have fun and adventure and also to prepare themselves to lead useful lives, thus establishing the foundations of Guiding in the Brownie Pack. When a Brownie earned her "Wings" she was ready to graduate into Guides to continue her education.

Many of the activities — Rallies, Jamborees, Parades, V.I.P. visits and other events, were shared with the senior group and also the Cubs and Scouts. There was equal participation in fund raising projects such as the selling of Girl Guide Cookies on "Cookie Day" held in the Spring of each year. First mention of this project was recorded in the annual reports of 1936.

Brownies have remained fairly consistent over the years with an average yearly membership of about 23. St. John's has been fortunate in providing leadership and the following are the Brown Owls who have served in this capacity:

1934 - 1944 Miss Caroline Conner
(a second Pack was formed with Mrs. Stewart Blackburn as leader)
1944 - 1951 Mrs. Joanne Simmons
1952 - 1959 and 1963 - 1970 Miss Eleanor Mehrer
1959 - 1961 Mrs. Alice Tombling
1962 - 1963 Mrs. Lorna Shaw
1970 - Mrs. Shirley Pellon

Tawny Owls 1934 - 1973

Miss Ione Gordon	Miss Jeanne Matthew	Mrs. Carol Fischer
Miss Frances May	Mrs. Alice Tombling	Mrs. Terry Marshall
Mrs. Phyllis Jacka	Miss Margaret Mogridge	Mrs. Shirley Pellon
Miss Shirley MacDonald	Mrs. Isabel Conner	Mrs. Jeanette Heinz
Miss Bee Fountaine	Mrs. Shirley Nelson	

RANGERS·

As the Guides advanced in years e Ranger Company was formed about 1934 With the fluctuations in Ranger activities especially at this sen or age level, the Company was active during the 30 s, 40 s and early 1950 s., but in the later years it closed and opened again Despite several attempts at reorganizing this group the last Company disbanded in June of 1971. Few records are available but the following women served as Captain:

Mrs. Mida Gordon
Miss Caroline Conner
Mrs. Marjorie Matthew
Mrs. M. Lawrence
Mrs. Phyllis Padwell
Mrs. May Jesse

Line Conner Flaig
Officer in Brownies Guides
and Rangers

Captain Mrs. M de Gordon Leading Church Parade

Marjorie Hillenberg

Jerry Hutchison

Mary Mitchell First Girl Card In Medicine Hat

Lorne Murray

ST. JOHN'S SCOUT TROOP 1911 - 1973
Over 60 Years of Scouting

St. John's Scout Troop had its beginning as a Boys' Club sponsored by St. John's Church in the year 1910. Its founder was the late J. Jessop Noll, a long time member of the Board of Session of St. John's Church.

In the year 1910 the governing bodies of most churches had not yet developed awareness of the need for any church program, apart from Sunday School training, to help guide the youth of their congregations along the right way of life. Weekday groups where they did exist were purely religious in character.

Mr. Nott followed the Undertaking Business so the first meetings of the new club were held in part of his establishment. Through the generosity of the late Mr. H. C. Yuill the new club was immediately provided with larger quarters at the rear of his residence, then opposite St. John's Church. The new club house was completely furnished by Mr. Yuill for the use of the Boys' Club.

The formation of this Boys' Club was the first step in the process of making application for the establishing of a Boy Scout Group in St. John's. The Boy Scout Movement at that time was growing at an astonishing rate. In the three years since its founding in 1907 by Baden-Powell, it had spread through the British Isles and to many countries of the Empire, including Canada.

Early in the year 1911 official recognition was given to the members of St. John's Boys' Club as a Troop of Boy Scouts, authorizing them to wear the uniform, badges and insignia of the Boy Scouts Association. A Royal Warrant of Appointment was presented to Mr. Noll appointing him as a Scoutmaster in the Boy Scout Movement.

Mr. Noll was deluged with applications from boys of other denominations to join St. John's Scout Troop. Sixty-one became the charter members of St. John's Scout Troop: Clare Becker, Norman Rossiter, John Yuill, Harlan Yuill, Frank Millican, Edward Furcy, Gordon Anderson, Sydney Holt, Ivan Rossiter, Alex Agnew, Laurie Rossiter, Harold Ferguson, James Burns, James Cain, Raymond Limbert, Donald Limbert, George Crockford, Harry Mathews, Wm. Muir, David Milne, Wm. Cockerill, Wes Becker, Graham Becker, Frank Crissel, Darcy Smith, Smyth Fleming, Walter Brotherton, Jay Watson, Ralph Smyth, Alvin Smeaton, Wilfred McKay, Earl Bell, Ralph Foster, Horace Whiffen, Archie Hewthorne, Maynard Patterson, Norman Evans, Wm. White, M. Mahood, George Gardner, Edger Cooper, Earl Cooper, John McCarger, Albert Cameron, John Shields, Jas. Galloway, Keith Muir, Willard Yuill, Jas. Robinson, Harry Nicol, Jas. Williamson, Donald Rankin, Inglis Boyd, Harry Freeman, Bruce Morris, Stuart McRae, Gerald Rankin, Gus Widden, Edward Morris, Eric Lyall, Essie Matthews.

To assist Mr Nott Mr Frank Wilherd was appointed as Assistant Scoutmaster The year 1911 marked the coronation of King George V who was crowned at Westminster on June 22 1911 Six scouts from St John s were in the Canad an contingent which travelled to England for the Jamboree The six scouts were Clare Becker, Harlan Yuill Horace Whiffen John Yhill Ivan Rossiter and Relph Smyth Mr Nott had the honour of being appointed as Medicine Hat s first District Commissioner on the formation of the District

On July 1ral 1912 in the Dominion Day parade St John s had a float which was a submarine complete with a full arsenal of guns and crew On the occasion October 11 1912 of the visit of the Duke of Connaught Governor General of Canada, St John s formed part of the color party in attendance for the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the renamed school in his name (originally the Sissons Avenue School) Part of the ceremony was a flag break and Scout J H. (Hop) Yhill did the honour Apparently the halyard was too short and as a result on breaking out the flag rnfurled well below the top of the flagstaff The Duke whispered to Hop do you always fly the flag at half mast in Medicine Hat Later the troop under Frank Crisall escorted the Duke s party from his carriage to the waiting train

The outbreak of the First Great War in 1914 caused scouting to come to a standstill in October 1917 in Medicine Hat Many of the charter members of the troop served in that war and some were among those who did not return

About 1925 Roland Hill was Scoutmaster in the re-organized troop Jim Castle became Scoutmaster of the Holy Trinity Troop and after a sponsor disagreement the troop merged with St John s which was without a Scoutmaster at the time In 1929 six scouts from Medicine Hat including Stan Morris and Johnny Woznow went as part of the Canadian contingent of 185 to the World Scout Jamboree at Burkenhead England

In the spring of 1930 Dr Dan MacCharles put up the Ambulance Trophy for inter troop competition St John s won the most years in total finally in 1941 and this was the year three of the team had undeclared measles An Association camp was held during the summer 1930 under Bill Morris November 28th a District Jamboree was held on the occasion of the visit of the new Provincial Field Commissioner W. S Beckman In 1931 the troop took part in the Association Camp at Elkwater July 5 - 15 and St John s with two patrols under Fred Foulston and Wally Backham with Jim Castle as Scoutmaster The camp is perhaps best known now for the published official record of the camp called The Wet Blanket (because it started out very wet) The record should include (according to Ed McKenzie of the Beaver Patrol) that the supplier of beef failed and the camp got mutton instead — every day in every form — and the boys called it sick-s mutton camp below

sick-a-sonp (mnlton of conrse) hill. In 1931 there was a big district corn feed in September at Police Point (and many pots got burned) and with all the other troops St. John's paraded to the Cenotaph for the Remembrance Service November 11th, an annual event in those days.

Another big District Camp was held at Elkwater in July 1932 with Tom Allen as Camp Scoutmaster for St. John's. Johnny Bell was given high praise for his contributions to the daily Camp bulletin — the Wet Blanket. Jack Jackson of St. John's was similarly recognized as an entertainer. These years evening monthly church parades were held with the Jackson brothers, Jack and Colin in the choir and the scouts ushering and taking the collection. In 1933, '34 and '35 individual troop camps were held in Elkwater, at the base of and on the West side of Ferguson Hill alongside Beaver Creek. An interesting camp with Tom Allen, Scoutmaster, was July 1934 with two Indian Tribe patrols — Gordon Sissons' Beaver Patrol and Doug Middleton's Wolf Patrol. All of those attending camp were given unique patrol names such as Big Beaver, John Dixon, Busy Beaver, Charlie Dixon, Running Wolf, Bud Cooper. 1934 was also the year of the Cypress Hills big forest fire, August 7 - 12. At one time over 600 were on the scene to contain it. Barney Crockett of the RCMP commanded the fight. Scouts including John Hargrave and Bruce Gist of St. John's, no doubt others were there.

Scoutmaster Jim Castle — Troop No. 1. Winners of MacCherles Trophy — St. John Ambulance. Colin Jackson, Claud Dethl, Jim Strachan, Leslie Dethl, Jack Jackson, Jimmy McLeod.

Mr. Jessop Nott

Founder of St. John's Scout Troop No. 1 District Commissioner for many years

The highlights of 1935 were the receipt of the King's Jubilee medals by both Jessop Nott and Jim Castle of St. John's, followed by the recognitions of the 25th silver jubilee of King George and Queen Mary with the firing of a 21 rocket salute and a bonfire beacon at the top of Crescent Heights supervised by Jim Castle of St. John's assistant district commissioner and lit by a team of scouts using friction (not matches) supervised by the Rovers including St. John's. This beacon was part of the chain of similar beacons across the Empire.

As a further event in the Jubilee recognitions, the Scouts of St. John's participated in the civic tree planting that borders Gershaw Drive.

1935 was also the occasion of the big train excursion to Calgary in April for the Jamboree and visit of the Chief Scout Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell. Over 500 Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies went from Medicine Hat. Many more joined the train at each stop. It was a massive rally at Victoria Park grounds. A few of the anecdotes - the march to the train started off from St. John's - the St. John's Scouts insisted upon making their car private with no trespassing - the mud and rain in the evening - more than 5,400 took part in the Jamboree - and the all-night return trip home with no sleep - the year 1935 also saw the departure of Jim Castle from the City. Johnny Woznow then took over briefly, followed by the new Scoutmaster Johnny Bell and Assistant Jack Jackson. Recognition of Rev. M. S. Blackburn with the troop Chaplain's Badge presentation took place at the annual St. John's parents night.

The years 1936, '37 and '38 were highlighted by St. John's participating in the dedication of Rotary Park on the occasion of the coronation of George VI on May 12, 1937. 1937 at Easter the Scouts (and Cubs) formed part of the nearly one hundred contingent to brave the mud to Havre for the Scout circus in turn on the

occasion of the visit of the King and Queen a Jamboree was held in the Medicine Hat Arena May 26th and St. John's participated in the pageant depicting the history of Medicine Hat.

In May 1936 for the big Jamboree a large contingent was expected from Hevre but rain and mud turned all back and only six guides arrived to make it an International event. St. John's put on a gymnastic display and J. Jessop Nott was presented with a silver tray in recognition of his many, many years of service on behalf of scouting. The year 1938 also saw a large contingent of St. John's scouts off to the Provincial Scout Camp at Sylvan Lake to Camp Woods named after Provincial Commissioner J. H. Woods under camp director, assistant provincial executive secretary, Ralph Johnson. At the close of 1938 J. J. Nott finally stepped down as District Commissioner after very many years of service and early in 1939 was honored with the "Award of Merit".

The close of the 30's and end of the depression years saw the end of the Scout Toy Shop which had operated from various available locations and finally kitty-corner from St. John's, each fall repairing old toys given by the community for distribution to needy children. In July 1940 a big District Scout Camp was held at Elkwater. The St. John's contingent and the Coaldale Scouts, identified as the Cree Tribe, were led by Murray Robinson, assisted by Jack Sissons who also acted as camp scribe publishing the daily camp newspaper "Smoke Signals".

The war years were years of rapid turnover of leaders as each one left on wartime service. After Johnny Bell had left in 1935 there followed Cland Dight, Les Ellis, Bert Mansfield (of the RAF stationed at No. 34 SFTS Medicine Hat) and then Dave Scudder. Through these war years many of the senior scouts assisted - Charlie Dixon, Ernie Middleton, Tom and Jack Sissons, Bill Graham, Minor Murray. One camp of note was the Provincial Camp at Camp Woods, Sylvan Lake in 1941 in which St. John's scouts took part, Tom and Jack Sissons going as assistant camp leaders. An important visit, September 1946, after the end of the hostilities was the official Jamboree visit of Lord Rowallan, chief scout of the British Empire and Commonwealth, at which St. John's troop put on a display of a model campsite.

By 1947 the Scouts and Cubs of Canada had contributed over $60,000 to the "BP Chins Up Fund" to provide replacement textbooks and libraries to Scouting in the European countries ravaged by the war. Through these postwar years and the 50's the Scoutmasters of St. John's after Dave Scudder include the names of Harry Dederer, Len Ankers, Cave Starling, and particularly Sam Goldie who served first after 1947 where he had started the Moose Troop. Then again 1956-58. Dave Scudder then served for a year again, and then Garry Hanley

to 1961 Sam Goldie resumed as Scoutmaster. In 1961 and continued right up to 1969. In the years 1946, 47, 48 District Camps were once again operated at Elkwater, and in 1949 in July a Canadian Jamboree C.J. 49" was held at Ottawa at Connaught Park. A representative from St. John's was Archie Campbell. At the Jamboree Medicine Hat participated in an Alberta Wild West Show which was a highlight. The train consisted of old colonial sleepers! These were the years also that the Scouts had a "Wood Stockade" campsite in the river tree-belt of Heald's Grove. Many camps and outings and Bronze Silver Arrowhead courses were held here.

In 1950 at the July District Camp at Elkwater 12 year old Allen Robinson wandered out of camp and got lost. A big search was organized complete with an aerial assistance by pilot Jim Murray (earlier a St. John's scout). Fortunately Allan was found unharmed to everyone's relief. In April 1952 Lady Baden-Powell visited Medicine Hat with a large District Rally at the Armouries to welcome her. A special reception was held for her in St. John's church. In summer, 1955, the World Scout Jamboree was held at Niagara Falls Ontario. St. John's was represented by Dennis McAller.

During the mid and late fifties the emphasis was on camping and the move to the new District Camp Site. The main building erected in 1956-57 followed by the progressive construction of the Adirondak shelters built by scouts, leaders and parents. During these years there were annual exchange visits with Havre, Montana, Kin Canoe scout rallies and barbecues, annual church rallies, swimming programs at Nelson Indoor pool, rifle range competitions, paper drives, numerous camping exercises and of course the annual father-son banquets. In February 1961 on the occasion of a Regional Meeting at Lethbridge, Sam Goldie was presented with a well deserved Medal

Mr. Sam Goldie — Award of Merit 1961
Cubmaster — Scoutmaster — Venturer Advisor

of Merit. In the summer of 1963 Sam and seven Scouts journeyed to the Provincial Scout Jamboree at Camp Woods, Sylvan Lake.

In 1966, as part of the Centennial celebrations, an exchange of Scouts was arranged, with Moncton, and Sam Goldie acted as Scout Master of the Medicine Hat contingent who made the journey. Bill Cocks will long remember his campsite on a ridge at Moncton and the storm that blew down his tent. In 1967, in return, the Moncton scouts camped at Elkwater in a District Camp and received a similar warm civic reception to the one enjoyed at Moncton. In addition, in 1966 Medicine Hat Scouts journeyed to the opening of the new Camp Impeesa, the Region campsite at Beaver Lake on the edge of the mountains west of Pincher Creek. In rain, mud, and raw bush the Scouts including Graham and Malcolm Sissons, Bill Cocks and Duncan Strachan of St. John's set up their tent camp.

The year 1969 was the last for Queen Scout Ceremonies as this disappeared in the new program for Scouting. Most years St. John's Scouts were to be found in the Region Ceremony for the award occasion, and 1969 was no exception for this last one with Scouts Ed Cocks and David Sissons. The years 1968-69 were the start of the changeover to the new scout program, with the organization of a Venturer Group sponsored by the District as a start. In the new age group 14-17 years, Ed Dodd became Troop Scouter with Sam Goldie as counsellor at St. John's at this time, ushering in the new programme. In the fall of 1972 following departure from the City of Troop Scouter Ed Dodd, the present leader, Jack Sissons assisted by Murray McLeod carried on in the new program presently assisted by Scouters-in-training David Sissons and Ed Cocks, four patrols, 26 boys.

St. John's Cub Pack 1931 - 73

St. John's Cub Pack was formed in the year 1931 with Joe Bell as its first Cubmaster. A number of individuals have served the Pack in the capacity of Cubmaster over the years including: Art Backhem, Tom Allen, Sam Goldie, Ray Wall, Cliff Wright, Dave Diever, and E. R. Pattison. The present Cubmaster is Herb Dand. Over the years the cubs have performed and participated in many of the same rallies, jamborees, church parades, fund drives, along with St. John's scouts. They have had their regular day and summer camps and other activities associated with cubbing.

St. John's Venturers 1969 - 73

In 1968, with the start of the new scout-age grouping program the District sponsored a Venturer group under Clayton Stobbs and a number of the senior St. John's Scouts joined. In November 1969 a new Venturer group was formed with St. John's as sponsor, Sam Goldie as Venturer adviser. Senior Scouts including Duncan Strachan

David Sissons Tom Fallon Ed Cocks David Mayer Marvin Hagsma, Gerth Mihalcheon of St John's troop along with Andrew Congdon, George Bell completed the founding group The present Venturer Adviser is Allan Sox The group renders Scouter in Training assistance to St. John's and other troops and packs and participates in other advanced scouting activity

St. John's Rover Crew 1931 - 1940

The crew was formed in 1931 and registered in January 1932 sponsored by St John's The skipper was A C Wade The crew originally met at St John's but later set up the Rover Den at various other locations and at the residence of A C Wade The crew was active until the war years The list of rovers is a long one and represents a large number of the senior Scouters in the city during those years Theirs was the senior responsibility in scouting and their contribution in those years was very significant to the scouting movement

Sponsor's Role

In all the years of their existence the troop and pack Rovers and Venturers of St John's have been self-supporting and the only cost to the Church for their operation has been in providing a place for them to meet This is due to the Group Committee of men and women mostly parents of the boys who supported them, helping the leaders by the raising of funds obtaining new leaders when necessary providing transportation and aid for outdoor activities and in the general management of the affairs apart from the actual training of the boys which is the job of the leaders

Many men and women have given service to the Group Committee of St John's over the years and without their aid and their faithful service the scouting could not have continued to function The Group Committee raises the funds for the purchase of training and camping equipment and for the supplies needed and expenses incurred in the operations The Group Committee meets regularly and when required for special functions Much of the credit for the successful operation is due to its work

A HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S P.S.A. CLUB

Late in the month of January 1938 Reverend W. D. Grant Hollingworth called together one Sunday morning some six or seven young people from St. John's Choir and described in detail his plans for the inception of a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Club. Mr. Hollingworth explained that such clubs were not an uncommon thing in Canada, that they met at five o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday, that members brought lunch so the meetings could continue past the supper hour and membership was restricted to young people of 16 years of age and older.

Thus began the first P.S.A. meeting and so was inaugurated one of the finest young people's clubs in the city. From this modest beginning a series of meetings were held which laid the foundation for an organization which grew and flourished in our church and community for almost a decade.

The appointment of committees in the areas of Devotions, Education, Discussions and Dramatics provided an avenue of service for every member of the club and included everyone in the activities. In addition to the formal programs the members engaged in a regular and varied program of club functions ranging from costume parties to picnics, weiner roasts, carol services and a variety of athletic and sport activities. One special activity which proved very popular was the reconstruction of the Tennis Court which existed on the property presently occupied by the Church Hall. This venture started as a natural outlet for the energies of those club members who were interested in tennis. From a regular evening and Saturday afternoon activity the popularity of the courts grew and finally the club secretary was instructed to inquire of the Church Session as to permission to play tennis on Sunday afternoon. Needless to say there was no Sunday tennis.

Among the highlights of the first few years of the club's operation, were the international visits with the young people from the Westminster Church in Great Falls, Montana. The first of these in 1940 was the direct result of a visit from one of our own church young people, Mr. Gordon McArthur, (still active in church affairs) as youth ambassador from Medicine Hat to Great Falls. An invitation was extended from the Great Falls Young People for any group from our city to undertake a good-will visit to their community. Our P.S.A. Club accepted the offer, and in May 1940 six cars of our young people made the trip to Great Falls.

The visitation commenced on Friday evening and culminated on Sunday afternoon when the Medicine Hat group had to leave for home. The official program included visits to special areas of Great Falls social gatherings with the American Young People, as well as Sunday Church activities. There was however a hidden agenda. Since

Great Falls had a reputation even in those days of being the "Sin Capital" of the State of Montana. A few of the Canadian visitors decided to pay a clandestine visit to some of the night clubs to obtain first hand information as to the accuracy of the rumors which had filtered into Alberta. Needless to say the physical condition of those who participated in this extra-curricular activity became evident to the rest of the group on the following day. Instead of being censured by the Great Falls group who might reasonably have assumed that this was hardly in keeping with an international visitation by a church group, they decided to set up another such tour the following night to be sure that the Canadians did not miss any of the night life of the Electric city. Needless to say the Rev. Mr. Hollingworth as chaperone was unaware of this side trip which took place by some of the group.

The International Visit was so successful and popular that a return visit was made by the Great Falls group the following year. Although plans were made to continue these events the war intervened and regretfully the trips had to be cancelled.

It is difficult to say just how many members the P.S.A. club had, for there was continual shift in population. The first minute book indicates that forty-three members attended the second meeting of the club on February 3, 1938.

The first executive elected by the club consisted of the following members:

President	Edwin McKenzie		
Vice President	Frances Popplewell		
Treasurer	Anne Calder		
Secretary	Myrtle Fleming	Convenors	Gertrude Hall
Executive	Mary Morrison		Arthur Jacks
	Tom Moore		Isabel Andersen
	Gordon Inglis		Jim Murray

The members listed to follow indicates those who were involved in P.S.A. club at one time or another. Asterisks beside names indicate members of No. 34 Service Flying Training School.

Mary Austin	Mabel Connel	Jack Armstrong	Frank Like*
Betty Wright	Mary White	Jean Steedman	Edwin McKenzie
Eileen Taylor	Eileen Bradley	Rev. W. Butcher	Esther Jacobsen
Frances May	Arthur Reines	Frances White	Hugh Thornton
Frank Gidley	Red Patterson*	Dave Scudder	Doreen Loleve
Helena Luyten	Lanis Pridwell	Myrtle Fleming	Winnie Burbidge
Audrey Pirkey	Ron Spencer*	Mr. Inglis	Janette Morrison
Alice A. Hewthorne	David Mathews*	John Ball	Mrs. Taylor
Alan Paisley	Kelly Bathridge	Martha Klaiber	John Haule
Carol Olsen	Dennis Taylor	Dorothy Mitchell	Ditje Luyten
Hazel Wesliven	Rev. R. L. Taylor	Gordon Inglis	Betty Wetkin
Lillian Dempster	Audrey McKenzie	Mary Klug	Marjorie Smith
Dennis Jones*	Ray Newman	Anne Calder	John Rataushk
Helen McPhail	Coy Perrin	Isabel Hudson	Mrs. Butcher
Helen Spencer	Gordon McArthur	Alex Duncan	Mary Morrison

Zan e Murray	Isabel Anderson	Cyril Fiddler*	Arthur Champnese
Ron West*	Frances Popplewell	Fred Hodgson*	Mignon Donnelly
Betty Popplewell	Louis Edwards	John Locke*	Violet Mantz
Lois Giles	Orville Lang	Dorothy Liddell	Mabel McKenzie
Harriet Luyten	Bernard May	Dorothy Luke	

During the War Years the P.S.A. club became a haven for many of the serv ce men from England who were training at No. 34 S.F.T.S. To these young men far from home and friends the club offered the warmth and fellowship of a home away from home. They in turn brought to the club vitality, initiat ve, and an astonishing variety of talents which were soon put to good use. It is highly likely that the P.S.A. club would not have lasted as long as it did, nor would it have sustained its interest among the members had it not been for the steady infusion of new members from the Station. The interest was far from one sided however, for many of the girls of the club found their future husbands during the Sunday afternoon meetings.

As the war continued and the trainees from the station progressed to active serv ce overseas, their interest in the club continued and a lively and continued correspondence was maintained between them and the Overseas Correspondent of the club, who for many years was Elsie Luyten (now Mrs. Denis Jenkins).

In 1944, one of the major innovations of the club was the introduction of a club paper, called The Torch, which was issued quarterly and became a most popular pblication, part chiefly among the absentee members.

Although Reverend Grant Hollingworth was the inaugural spirit behind the club, and certainly its founding father, he entered the chaplaincy. His place was taken by Reverend Wilfred Belcher, until he, too was called into the services, and then Reverend R. L. Taylor guided the club through the years from 1943 to its final meetings in the late forties.

In common with many similar organizations, the P.S.A. Club did not end its activities on any specific day, rather it continued until declining membership made it evident that it no longer possessed its original appeal. As was noted earlier, one of the strengths of the organization during the war years was the continual infusion of members from the Air Force station, and when the war years concluded, the club did not offer the same appeal for a new generation.

The words to follow were written by Fred Hodgson, one of the staunch members of the club who had just been recalled to England. They provided a fitting epitaph for an organization which meant so much to so many young people from our church, our community, and from England across the water.

We are grateful to be numbered among you. To us all, membership is a boon, which we only realize after we join. I am sure that

in after years of peace we will recall with something of a sigh the meny pleasant hours spent in your compeuy — outings excursions picuics — and lhal s·gh even theu will I know hold end breathe to you thankfuuess for acceptiug us ruto your club that we were able iu good company to pass some of our leisure hours Iu the veuous phases of the Club s activities and though we lost temporarily fuends and familier places in comrug here what luck we have had to fiud such a large group of friends as yourselves and how we will always thruk that some of the best hours of our tour of duty in Canade ware Pleasaut Sunday Afteruoons I would like to say with you the few words that mceut most of ell in all our meetings — the words — God Be With You Till We Meet Agsin

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE NORTHSIDE CIRCLE

Mrs Nicholson
Mrs Jim McCombs
Mrs. White
Mrs. Douglas
Mrs McFadden
Mrs Hitchcox
Mrs Minnie Scott
Mrs. A Foulston
Mrs Fraser
Mrs McDougall
Mrs Ed (Isabell) McCombe
Mrs. S F Salley
Mrs Morris
Mrs J Wyatt
Mrs Dr Patterson
Mrs Donaldson
Mrs McArthur
Mrs. Quinten
Mrs. Popplewell
Mrs. Reid
Mrs Gillespie
Mrs Fergusen
Mrs. Middleton
Mrs Dr Gershew
Mrs McCaig
Mrs McFall
Mrs. Jacks

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE HILL CIRCLE

Mrs. R Calder
Mrs Alex Anderson
Mrs Ben Bell
Mrs. V Serrie
Mrs J Dryden
Clara Porter
Mrs. D Drinnan
Mrs. C. Dewkes
Mrs W Rutherford
Mrs McArthur
Mrs. W Dawson
Mrs. E Hailey
Mrs Ransom
Mrs. J Fitzgerald
Mrs Metland
Mre J Inglis
Mrs Tom Graham
Mrs. M Teel
Mrs. R Rutherford
Mrs Milton
Mrs J Hill
Mrs. A Self
Mrs R Potter
Mrs. J Merrison
Mrs H Sissons
Mrs M Merrison
Mrs. C Hudson
Mrs. W Merer

Roll of Honor

FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 - 1918

Major Matheson
Pte J T Bryidges
Pte J Henderson
Pte Robert Burne
Pte C Middleton
Pte G K Falkner
Pte J W McClean
Pte H L Smith
Pte Clarke
Pte Wm Wade
Pte Ralph Herald
Pte R Calder
Pte A Guthrie
Pte Jas Lamb
Pte W Penny
Pte C A Stephens
Pte Frank Gibbs
Gnnser Wm Sass
Pte A W Chandler
Pte A Middleton
Pte W Morrison
Pte G Bell
Ernest Gordon M C
F/Lt N McLaughlin
Cadet Cecil Crawford
Pte Shaw
Pte Smith
Pte Frank Willard
Lt C Dodsworth
Pte N Bell
F/Lt Geo Calder
Pte Wm Marsh
Sgt Baker
Pte Thos. Tweed
Lt James Card
Pte Lavergne McDougall
Dermot McCorger
W Lawney

Pte J H. Bannen
Pte A Gordon
Pte E Jamieson
Pte Penny Lee
Pte P R Fraser
Pte R Shields
Pte A Mollison
Pte R. Scott
Bomber Rees
Pte H E Park
Pte J C Bannen
Pte D M Campbell
Pte J Imrie
Pte C McKinnon
Pte R E Shaw
Pte G Williams
Sgt Robt Wallace
Cadet R Porter
Pte F Colquhoun
Pte J Fergusen
Pte Chapman
Pte Darling Cox
Pte W Bayne
Pte Stevenson
L/Cpl A. Rice
Pte A. Cathro
Pte Alex Robertson
Carl Hargrave
Pte J W Black
Pte W Bain
Pte W G Angus
Cadet V Crawford
Pte C E Johnson
Pte Alex Rain
Cpt W J Bannen
Pte M Perrid
Cpl E C Gilhof
Pte J. Acheson

Pte J Goodall
Pte G T Davidson
Pte W S Watson
Pte. McKay
Pte. A. McIntosh
Pte W McClellate
Pte J H G Turnbull
Pte A. Robinson
Pte J Reid
Pte W R Simonds
Pte F Batty
Pte E J Fonks
Pte R Laing
Pte H. McKay
Pte J M Thompson
F/Lt Clare Becker
Pte Wm Mitchell
Lt J R Wills
Cpl A. F Morrison
Pte D R Ware
Pte R McKellin
F/Lt. S McLaughlin
Pte C Bennett
Pte J L Richardson
Pte Strachen
Pte Wright
Pte White
Pte Martin
Pte J Dickenson
Pte McBeth
Pte J D Edington
Pte Chas Baker
Dr W H MacDonald
Lt J A. Cameron
Pte Atkinson
Cpl A H Coles
H A Taylor
Pte H McEwen

Pte Ray Adsit
Pte J C Anderson
Pte. J L Jinden
Pte. A C Cameron
Pte. Stott
Pte Roy Gordon
Sgt Cheesman
Pte Torrance Finlay
Pte Cyril Cranke
Pte Donald Mathesen
Pte E Cook
Pte M Eadie
Pte N Atkinson
Pte J C Collins
Pte A. Forbes
Lt A W Gleaves
Pte Dan Mutholland
Lt Gordon Tnfts D.S.O.
Pte F Page
Sgt J R Graham
Pte J Green
Pte. John Walker
Pte R W Anderson
PTE. F ROBERTSON
VICTORIA CROSS
Pte. F R McDonald
Pte Quentin Kennedy
Pte F Hall
Pte Frank Milligan
Pte T F Todd
Pte Chas Tyrill
Pte S Ellis
Pte Harry Matthews
Lt J R. C. G.Moore
Cpl Wm Kennedy
J W Neil
R M Sheak
M C Gifford
E Middleton
R P McIntosh
T D M Turner
H R Young
Geo Paley
A G Mackintosh
Lt/Col F O Stevens
Pte Scable
F W Tomlinson
W H Conway
L/Cpl Davidson
Robt Marsh
A G Eakin
H A. Breakell
C H Meller
A H Baker
Pte Wm Lakey
J F Ellis

Pte J Reissheim
Pte Bennett
Pte W E Blossom
Pte C A. Adsit
Lt A. Orr
Pte E Fellows
Sgt Fenwick Rutherford
Pte Alex Davidson
Lt Basil Jones
F/Lt. Lawson
Pte Jay Watson
Pte T Davis
Pte E Elliott
F/Lt C E Weir
Pte Chas Sweatlove
Pte C B Cairns
Pte. McDonald
Pte Jackson
Pte J Johnson
Pte Lanrie Rosetter
Pte Fleming
Pte H Gillis
Pte Robertson
Pte Wm Penhale
Pte. George Shanks
Pte Billy Lauder
Pte Urquhart
Pte C. McNeil
Pte Jas. Shannon
Sgt. R D Carrie
Pte Easy Matthews
Lt Wm Belfour
Frank A. Roberts
W. P Bennett
J D Snowdon
W W Fleming
Cpl F McKnown
R M Yaill
Frank H Wright
Ivan Rosaller
C C Dunwell
Cpl A L Morrison
Pte Middleton
Trumpeter L Lindmas
S L Hesslington
C Matheson
Jas Ostler
J H Cain
F Hall
A. L Fraser
Cpl J Shannon
J D MacLean
T Westcott
Robert Nashes
John S. Mitchell
Lt. Jas Mort

Pte H. J Cox
Pte Brown
Pte J Campbell
Pte J C. Auld
Pte Jas Clark
Pte. D Fraser
Sgt. Elmer Wright
Pte. J Boyd
Pte R Tufts
Pte. J Collins
Pte Donaldson
Pte O M Goldie
Pte Pearl
Lt. Horace Whiffin
Pte Frank Willard
Dr Knight M C
Pte Farquher
Pte Henderson
Pte Norman Rosaller
Sgt. D E Black
Pte Elmslie Smith
Pte D Harvey
Pte R Fitzsimmons
Pte W Kinnaird
Lt. Rogers
Pte Ivan Rosaller
Pte D M Goodall
Pte J C. Norquay
Pte Jas. Graham
Pte Wm Graham
Pte Frank Matthews
Pte D Gilchrist
Lt D Thomson
Fred Tremlson
Edward C Willis
A. J Middleton
Wm Crockett
J Middleton
A MacLean
Ernest E Wilkens
A. D McLennan
J G Cuff
H P Dunn
Pte Cook
T M C Harrison
G N Atkinson
W Carney
C. Charles Colquhoun
G L. Asquhh
F O Schofield
Pte T S. Graham
Cpl Forbes
H H Stubbs
A. Sharpe
John Jacob
T Stephens

Pte Jas McMurtrie
Pte David M Gillespie
Pte John A Gillespie
Pte H L Smith
G Thanton
W S Short
Pte G Hicks
Pte J Deggil
Pte Jas Lamb
Pte P Mellin
W McWilson

Pte N Robinson
W G Twyning
Robt. R Murray
Wm Fleming
Sgt H F Morley
Cpl H F Sneddon
Pte J G Dryden
Pte R S Haugh
Pte G A Cousins
J R Lauder
Pte McMahon

W P White
W T Thompson
Wm Garvie
R G Hughes
Pte V L Brown
W Clarke
Pte J Dryden
Pte Alfred S. Hunter
Sgt Black Forrier
Pte R Shaw
Pte McKenzie
Pte Anders Gillespie

There were two Regiments recruited in Medicine Hat during the First War — The 3rd C.M.R. Commander Lt/Col F O Sissons of which 168 men were from St Johns. The 175th Battalion Commander Lt/Col Nelson Spencer of which there were 124 men from St Johns. There were many more men who joined other Regiments.

SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945

Kenneth W Michie
Gordon Anderson
Walter Bell
Jean G McQueen
Bruce McKenzie
Ben Lee
Robert A. Lindsay
Harris E. McCombs
William G O Rose
Cave Starling
William McQueen
Wm G Roxburgh
Marshall Barnett
Gordon McArthur
Jas M Taylor
J Lyle Wyatt

Cecil J Craig
John A Porter
Kenneth Ferrin
Gordon Armstrong
D A. Begg
John A Bell
Allan J Middleton
Frank (Pinkie) Middleton
Alan Hopkins Sr
Kenneth M Grey
Edward (Ted) Gray
Fergus Fraser
George Deane
Robert Lendrew
James Strachan
Allan Hopkins Jr

Dr G G Elder
William Morris
James A Faulkner
W D G Hollingworth
James Merchant
James Anderson
Gerald Grant
Elmer Nelmen
Private Shehatke
Robert M Roche
William McLaren
G R. Reker
E. A. Parrish
J A Millligen
Jimmy Muir
Evalt Nelmen

Douglas Middleton
Jock Fraser Shirt
Stephen D Solley
E E Middleton
M J. Middleton
Gordon A. Simmons
J A Barrie
W Starling
H W Lucking
W B McQueen
E J Mallard
Jas. Crockett
R J Gray
Jack E Fitzpatrick
John Hargreve
H T Hargrave
F W R Creeswell
Robert Conner
D E Gray
Robert Tufts
J H Mitchell
W A. Rutherford
N. T Medicott
D N Laing
Helen Hill
Betty Hopkins
E M Roche
Homer Currie
S A Middleton
Jane Laidlaw
Helen Mitchell
Margaret L Hargreve
A M Hargreve
K Fitzpatrick
S L. Mallard

James Bain
R L McLane
J W Philp
W C Bradley
W. M Currie
Bruce Fottmley
Hugh Pushie
J A Middleton
O C. Farmer
G L Osborne
R A Davidson
E J Rutherford
B C. Roche
A. A. Lucking
W J. Hicks
P S Mitchell
K C McKenzie
Bruce Gust
Susie Glasgo
S J MacDonald
G A. Simmons
R T Philp
J J Osborne
Jas. Murrey
Wm MacGregor
D MacGregor
John MacGregor
Gordon Bell
Jas Bell
E M Lloyd
J Crothers
Winston Duggan
Ewert Duggan
John Murr
J E M MacKinnon

W F Butcher
F M Clelland
Howard W George
Hemok Roche
B W Wright
S Wight
W Akers
O S Bell
W Gray
F W Feulsten
W G Clerk
W O Mills
L A. Laidlaw
G F McQueen
W E MacLeod
J B McNichel
T G Rumell
W J Graham
R Y Fisher
Fred Flaig
D W Fraser
W P Megridge
John Sissons
Thomes Sissons
Clare Breakell
Sam N Gelzer
Agnes Hopkins
Colin Macdonald
Norman Meldrum
Cecil Matthews
Grace Patterson
James Pratt
Glenn Pushie
Norma Rathwell
Clifford Rathwell

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF BELOVED MEMBERS

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

WEST SIDE OF SANCTUARY

In Memory of	*Presented by*
James Hargrave 1846-1835 Alexandre Helen Hargrave 1835-1932	Their Children
Henry Stewart	Maurice Stone
Jean and Richard Becker	Phyllis and Charles Becker, Ruth Hughes
William and Jessie Cousins Catherine Thornton Jessie Elliott	Grace Cousins
The Hawthorne Family	Presented 1954
Dr. Aden MacIntosh Mary Florence MacIntosh	Adena and Roy Pettigrew

EAST SIDE OF SANCTUARY

Herbert Sissons 1881 1948 Lissa R. Sissons 1886-1964	The Sissons Family
Albert Koopman 1894-1961	Leone and Wayne
Janet Mitchell 1852-1936 Margaret Mitchell 1849-1941	Mrs. J. (Helenora) Mitchell
Dr. J. C. Hargrave 1876-1942 and his wife Mary Jane 1874-1962	Howard Campbell Elaine Edith and Margaret
J. Jessop Nott 1879-1956	Nora Nott

GIFT	IN MEMORY OF	PRESENTED BY
Doors to the Sanctuary	JOHN JESSOP NOTT	Nora Nott
The Pipe Organ	MEMBERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN TWO WARS 1914 - 1918 1939 - 1945	The Congregation
The Chimes	THOS. S. MONTGOMERIE	Grace Montgomerie
Pulpit Bible and Study Lamp	FREDERICK JACKA ANNIE JACKA	Their Family
Baptismal Font	DR. AND MRS. ADEN MacINTOSH	Adena and Roy Pettigrew
Memorial Plaque	THE REV. JAMES HERALD	St. John's Congregation
Memorial Plaque	THOMAS TWEED ESQ.	Office Bearers of the Church
Cushions for Pews in Sanctuary	FLORA MINOR NAAB	Her Estate
New Book of Praise (Revised 1972) Complete Set for Congregational Use	MR. JOE DAVIS	His Estate

MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARCH 1973

Mr & Mrs Bill Akers
Mr & Mrs Norman Anderson
Mrs Anne Armstrong
Mrs Margaret Baker
Miss Edith Barkley
Mr Jim Barrie
Miss Janice Barrie
Mr & Mrs Jack Barrie
Mr Harry Bateman
Miss Phyllis Becker
Mr Gordon Bell
Mr & Mrs Jack Bell
Mr & Mrs Jack Blamey
Mr & Mrs Don Blamey
Miss Heather Blamey
Miss Debra Blamey
Mr & Mrs David Borush
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Mr & Mrs Arnold Bremer
Mrs Carol Brink
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Mr & Mrs Arthur Briar
Mr & Mrs Robert Brown
Mrs Evelyn Budin
Mrs. Marilyn Burk
Miss Dorothy Burton
Miss Ann Calder
Mrs Anne Campbell
Miss Margaret Campbell
Dr & Mrs Wilf Campbell
Miss Muriel Coastal
Mr & Mrs. George Coaks
Mr Edward Coates
Mrs. Henrietta Cramer
Miss Gladys Cousins
Mrs Edith Crothers
Mrs Mary Currie
Mr & Mrs John Cuthbertson
Mrs Gladys Davies
Mr Bart deJong
Mr & Mrs. Jim Dibble
Miss Doris Dinsley
Mrs Margaret Dowkes
Mrs Jean Dryden
Mrs Jacqueline Duggins
Mrs. Annie Earle
Miss Joanne Eberly
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Mrs. Emilene Estes
Mrs. Gail Eva
Mrs & Mrs. McLaren Ewart
Mr & Mrs Ken Fauser
Mrs Tina Fitzgerald
Mr & Mrs. Fred Fleig
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Mr & Mrs. Howard Fleming
Miss Peggy Forsling
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Miss Myra Ford
Mrs Annie Forshaw
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Miss Carl Foulkes
Mrs Christine Fowler
Mr & Mrs John Fraser
Mr & Mrs. Al Gerlow
Mr & Mrs Fred Gardiner
Mrs Ella Gardiner
Mr & Mrs. George Gayder
Mr Elmo Gduk
Mr & Mrs Sam Gobbs
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Mr & Mrs Dale Grant
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Mr & Mrs Harry Grant
Mr & Mrs Alex Grater
Mr & Mrs. Bruce Gust
Mrs Lilnes Gust
Mr & Mrs Frank Hagemeister
Mr & Mrs Robert Hardie
Mr & Mrs. Garry Hasley
Mr & Mrs Bert Hargrave
Miss Margaret Hargrave
Mrs Mary Hargreve
Mr & Mrs Jim Harrell
Mrs. Gerta Harrison
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Miss Alice Anne Hawthorne
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Mr Ernest Holley
Mrs. Bessie Hopkins
Mrs. Maurie Howe
Mr & Mrs Jim Hortenas
Mrs Clara Howeus
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Mrs Marjorie Mellbew
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Mr & Mrs Doug McArthur
Mr & Mrs. Gordna MacArthur
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Mr & Mrs. Ed McCombs
Miss Beth McFall
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Mrs. Kathleen McKay
Mr & Mrs Bill McKenzie
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Mrs. Hazel McKearn
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Miss Norma Morrison
Miss Ethel Murray
Mrs Jane Murray
Mr Fred Nash
Mrs. Beth Nelsmith
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Mr & Mrs LeRay Pahl
Mr & Mrs Phillip Parsons
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Mrs. Louise Patton
Mrs Mabel Pedersen
Mr & Mrs Roy Pettigrew
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Mrs Mary Popplewell
Mrs Carrie Philp
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Mr & Mrs George Plews
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Mr & Mrs. Alex Pratty
Mr & Mrs Phillip Pudwell
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Mr & Mrs Jack Reeves
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Mr & Mrs Barry Sheva
Mrs E aa Shields
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Mr & Mrs Jack Sissons
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Miss Gwen Sissons
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Rev Dr & Mrs Don Smith
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Mr Gilbert Laidlaw
Mr John Lloyd
Mr & Mrs Marshall Lloyd
Mrs Velma Lay lers
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Mr Ross McArthur
Mr Ina McQuaig
Mrs Barbara Nola
Mr Bruce Pettigrew
Mr Ted Pettigrew

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Mr Bill Conve
Mrs Elwyn Curearainge
Mrs Mary Fairhe m
Mr Don Fe rston
Mr & Mrs Gerald Grant
Mr & Mrs Ken Hansen
Mr Alan Hutchison
Miss Gwen Laidlaw
Mrs Dorothy Presow
Mr Richard Pratt
Mr Donald Scott
Mr Clayton Sissons
Mr Graham Sissons
Mr Malcolm Sissons
Miss Sandra Sporre
Mrs. Mary Stone
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Geishaw Senator F W — SAAMIS

Morrow Rev J W — Early History of the Medicine Hat Country

McKellar Rev High — Presbyterian Pioneer Ministers

Stephen Rev Charles — Historical Sketch

Robertson Mr William — Letter

Bassett J J — Curator Medicine Hat Historical and Museum Foundation

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

City of Medicine Hat Assessors Department

The Medicine Hat News — Microfilm Records

Hillside Cemetery Records

All photographs are courtesy of St. John s Church the Historical Museum and Private Collections

Acknowledgements are gratefully extended to

Dr D C Smith
Dorothy Hanley
J A. Searle
Sam Goldie
Hope Hargrave Michael
Frances Jenkins
Jack Sissons
Caroline Conner Craig
D S. Grant
Alice Ann Hawthorne
Ray Foulston

and many former Leaders of Church Organizations and Groups

Published by
Val Marshall Printing (1969) Ltd
Medicine Hat Alberta
1973

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Minister The Rev D C Smith B.A., B.D., Ph.D
Organist and Choir Leader Mrs. R. E. Pedersen

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Moderator — Dr D. C. Smith 526-3619
Clerk of Session — Mr D S Grant 526-3603

B. J. Baresh	527-5947	J. G. Hersman	526-5946	B. B. Shave	527-5951
G. I. Cocks	526-2457	Z. Lloyd	527-2189	G. H. Sessins	526-3697
J. Cuthbertson	526-4443	A. V. Marshall	526-2062	W. J. Sessons	527-1907
C. I. Dowkes (Mrs.)	527-2514	S. McArthur	526-5018	V. W. Soley	527-2718
F. Fluig (Mrs.)	527-2878	E. McKenzie	525-4219	*H. Sorenson	527-2379
R. A. Foulston	526-4378	G. Plews	525-5036	J. D. Tufford	525-3684
A. G. Garton	527-5127	R. H. Porter	832-2128	D. VanWyngaarden	527-2405
W. G. Hanley	527-2565	J. G. Pratt	526-3536	A. J. Wilson	525-5597
D. S. Hawthorne	526-2766	C. H. Schneider	527-3230		

Retired L. deJong

* On temporary leave of absence

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Secretary-Treasurer — J. A. Bairne 526-4272

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Envelopes, Record These Days — Mrs E Mehler 526-4277
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Mr P Popovitsch 526-2794

CHURCH SCHOOL

11 00 a m — Kindergarten Department — Every Sunday (ages 3½ - 5)
12 15 p m — 3rd Sunday of Month (6 - 14)

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday	7:30 p m	Youth Group	Mr G. Giduk	527-8506
Monday	7.00 p.m.	Cubs	Mr H. Dand	527 2350
Tuesday	6:00 p m.	Brownies	Mrs. C Patton	526 2111
	7 15 p.m.	Girl Guides	Mrs S. Hill	527 2742
Wednesday	7.30 p m	Boy Scouts	Mr J Sissons	527 1907
Thursday	4.30 p.m	Junior Choir	Mrs. W VanDerKaaden	526-4437
	8:00 p m	Senior Choir	Mrs R Pedersen	526-3174

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday	2:00 a m.	Ladies Aid	Mrs W Bradley	522-4624
2nd Week	8:00 p m.	Hargrave/Taylor W M S.	Mrs. G McArthur	526 5019
3rd Tuesday	7.30 p m.	Scout Group Committee	Mr A. Wilson	526 6097
4th Tuesday	7.30 p m	Board of Managers	Mr K. L. Fauser	527 2403
4th Wednesday	7.30 p.m	Session	Mr D Grant	526 3603
EVERY OTHER				
Wednesday	2.30 p m.	North Side Circle	Mrs F Storrs	526 5080
Thursday	9:00 a m	Hill Circle	Mrs S Griffin	526 2482
3rd Thursday	3.00 p.m	Third Street Circle	Mrs. W Mognigie	526-3855
	8:00 p m	Thursday Club	Mrs M Cantalini	526-6271

COMMUNION SUNDAYS:

1st Sunday — October
2nd Sunday — December — March — June

ERRATA: 4. Page 46 missing name is Bud Ralston

5. List of elders, add 1886 Thomas Finley; add 1948 J.F. Rutherford and A.M. Smith; correction 1941 J.H. instead of J.L.Wyatt

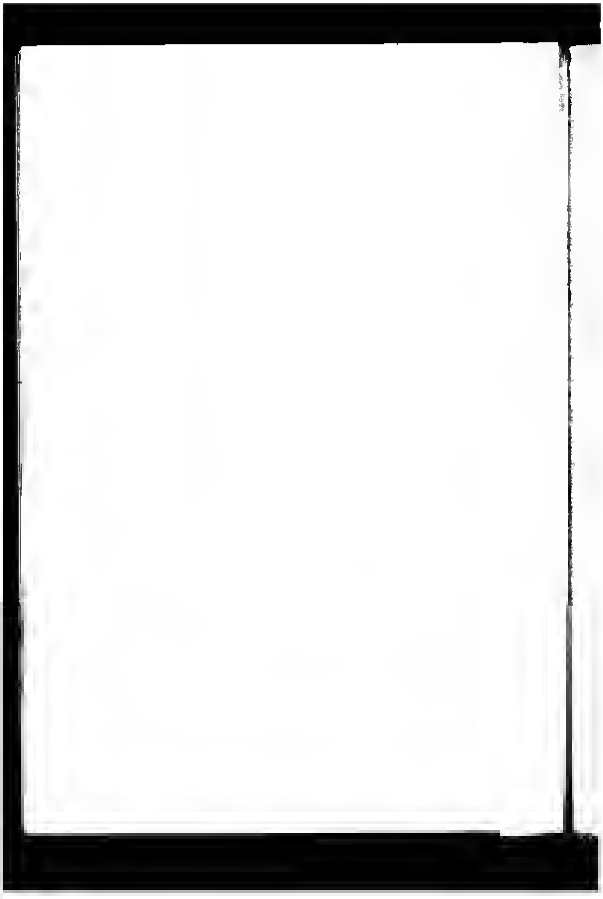
6. Page 105 List of W.M.S. presidents add Mrs. J. Hagerty 1951 - 1956

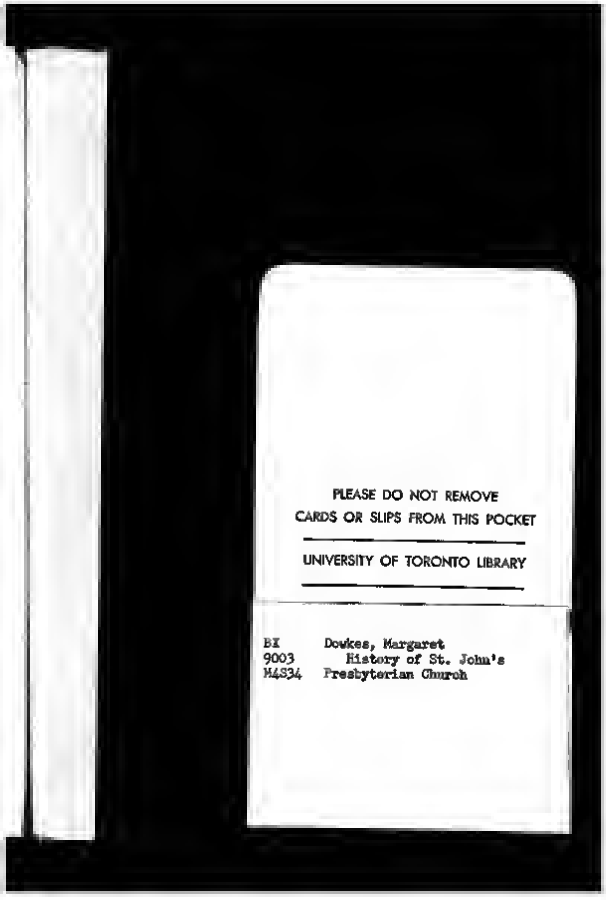
7. Page 131 - line 3 correction birthdate of Alexandra Helen Hargrave 1853 instead of 1835

ERRATA 1 Page 79 Line 9
should read — September 30 1886

2 Page 51 Line 30
should read — 1972-73 Mr Ken Fauser

3. Page 133 Bibliography, Line 3
should read — 1884-1973





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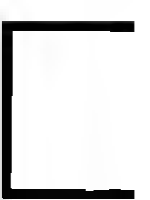

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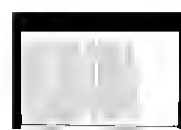

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ARTS 2 WORKSHOP AT PRESENTATION WITH ANDREAS

By Zoe Andreadakis

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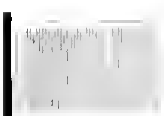

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Roll of Honor

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Team

Place	School	Score
1	Michigan	30
2	Stanford	60
3	Notre Dame	90
4	Oregon	120
5	Michigan	150
6	Michigan	180
7	Michigan	210
8	Michigan	240
9	Michigan	270
10	Michigan	300
11	Michigan	330
12	Michigan	360
13	Michigan	390
14	Michigan	420
15	Michigan	450
16	Michigan	480
17	Michigan	510
18	Michigan	540
19	Michigan	570
20	Michigan	600
21	Michigan	630
22	Michigan	660
23	Michigan	690
24	Michigan	720
25	Michigan	750
26	Michigan	780
27	Michigan	810
28	Michigan	840
29	Michigan	870
30	Michigan	900

Women's 4 x 100 Meter Relay

Place	School	Time
1	Michigan	42.50
2	Stanford	42.60
3	Notre Dame	42.70
4	Oregon	42.80
5	Michigan	42.90
6	Michigan	43.00
7	Michigan	43.10
8	Michigan	43.20
9	Michigan	43.30
10	Michigan	43.40
11	Michigan	43.50
12	Michigan	43.60
13	Michigan	43.70
14	Michigan	43.80
15	Michigan	43.90
16	Michigan	44.00
17	Michigan	44.10
18	Michigan	44.20
19	Michigan	44.30
20	Michigan	44.40
21	Michigan	44.50
22	Michigan	44.60
23	Michigan	44.70
24	Michigan	44.80
25	Michigan	44.90
26	Michigan	45.00
27	Michigan	45.10
28	Michigan	45.20
29	Michigan	45.30
30	Michigan	45.40

Women's 4 x 400 Meter Relay

Place	School	Time
1	Michigan	3:30.50
2	Stanford	3:30.60
3	Notre Dame	3:30.70
4	Oregon	3:30.80
5	Michigan	3:30.90
6	Michigan	3:31.00
7	Michigan	3:31.10
8	Michigan	3:31.20
9	Michigan	3:31.30
10	Michigan	3:31.40
11	Michigan	3:31.50
12	Michigan	3:31.60
13	Michigan	3:31.70
14	Michigan	3:31.80
15	Michigan	3:31.90
16	Michigan	3:32.00
17	Michigan	3:32.10
18	Michigan	3:32.20
19	Michigan	3:32.30
20	Michigan	3:32.40
21	Michigan	3:32.50
22	Michigan	3:32.60
23	Michigan	3:32.70
24	Michigan	3:32.80
25	Michigan	3:32.90
26	Michigan	3:33.00
27	Michigan	3:33.10
28	Michigan	3:33.20
29	Michigan	3:33.30
30	Michigan	3:33.40

Women's 4 x 800 Meter Relay

Place	School	Time
1	Michigan	8:20.50
2	Stanford	8:20.60
3	Notre Dame	8:20.70
4	Oregon	8:20.80
5	Michigan	8:20.90
6	Michigan	8:21.00
7	Michigan	8:21.10
8	Michigan	8:21.20
9	Michigan	8:21.30
10	Michigan	8:21.40
11	Michigan	8:21.50
12	Michigan	8:21.60
13	Michigan	8:21.70
14	Michigan	8:21.80
15	Michigan	8:21.90
16	Michigan	8:22.00
17	Michigan	8:22.10
18	Michigan	8:22.20
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23	Michigan	8:22.70
24	Michigan	8:22.80
25	Michigan	8:22.90
26	Michigan	8:23.00
27	Michigan	8:23.10
28	Michigan	8:23.20
29	Michigan	8:23.30
30	Michigan	8:23.40

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